

# STEAD'S

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10. Do crusts form in my nose?
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14. Does phlegm drop into my throat?
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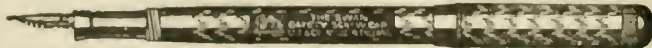
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
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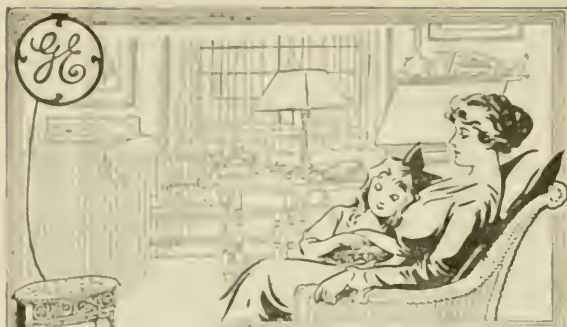
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EDITED BY HENRY STEAD  
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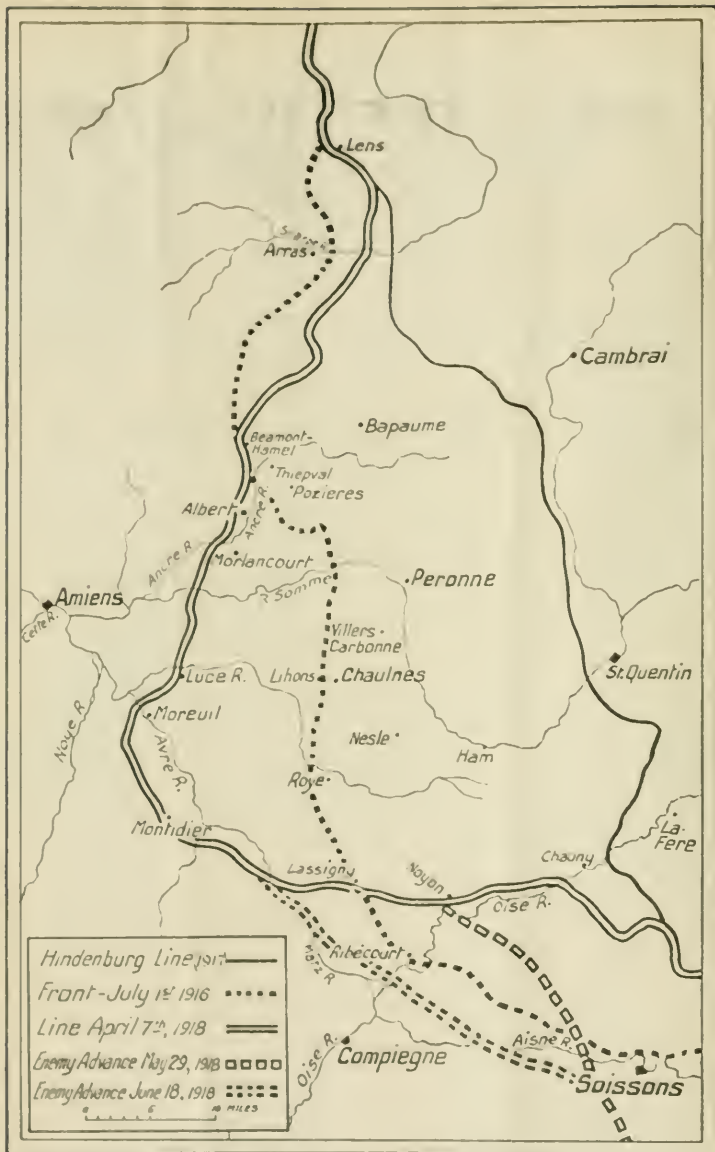
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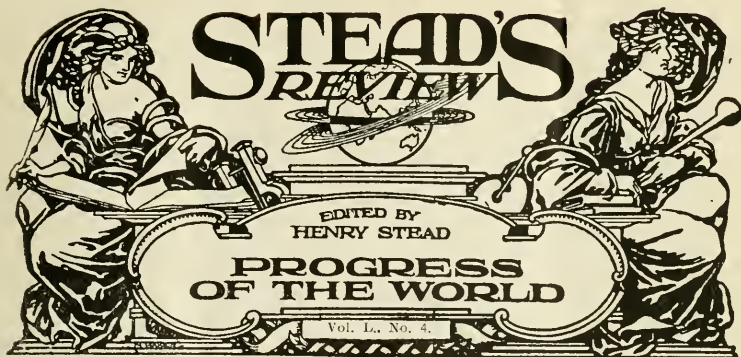
FROM BAGDAD TO BAKU.



#### THE AISNE OFFENSIVE IN PICARDY

The present front runs from Albert to Terguigny, through Bray, Chaumes and Roye. From Terguigny it follows the July 1916 line to Beaumont.





AUGUST 17, 1918.

**Another Allied Victory.**

The fifth year of the struggle has begun with splendid promise of Allied achievement, and that promise has been brilliantly maintained during the early weeks of the 49th month of the war. Writing two weeks ago I was able to tell of the Franco-American success on the Marne, of the driving back of the enemy to the Vesle, of their entire dislodgement from what is generally spoken of as the Marne Pocket. At that time there was considerable hope expressed that a minor disaster might be inflicted on the Germans, and that a portion of the Crown Prince's army might be captured. In view of the ordered retreat carried out by the foe, such capture appeared highly improbable, and shortly after it was reported that all hostile forces had withdrawn in safety across the Vesle. The speculation as to how far the Germans would fall back has been answered during the intervening fourteen days, and we find them still standing on the Vesle, they have not been compelled to withdraw to the Aisne as was expected. But interest in the great efforts of Marshal Foch in this sector was altogether lost when the news came through of Sir Douglas Haig's attack on the Amiens salient. It began on Thursday, August 8th, little over a week ago, and, during the first

couple of days, was pushed with such success that now the Allies stand possessed of about a third of the total territory captured by the Germans in their Somme offensive last March. The first reports suggested that the initial success would be followed by substantial advance which would force headlong retreat to the Hindenburg line. There was, however, not much chance of this so long as the enemy were able to hold Albert, and prevent rapid French advance at Lassigny.

**What Effect will Defeat have in Germany?**

I will deal later with the military position created by the Haig drive, but would first point out some significant things about it which are liable to be overlooked. First of all, we assume that this British victory, following immediately on the forced enemy retreat from the Marne, must have plunged Germany into deepest gloom. Undoubtedly it must have a depressing effect, but not necessarily any greater than the successful German drives in Picardy and on the Aisne produced in France and Great Britain. Our foes, by clever concentration and efficient staff work, caught us more or less unawares at La Fere in March, and on the Chemin des Dames in May, and, taking quick advantage of their initial successes, drove us

back for some thirty miles to Maastricht from La Fere and to the Marne from the Aisne. Why, in turn, by a still more concentrated and surprise attack, was not neutral success over the enemy, which we also have turned to good account. But whereas the Germans in both cases were thirty miles beyond their attacking force in a week, it took French more than two weeks to drive the enemy back to the Vesle, and Haig's forces, despite their great first spring, have only advanced thirteen miles in seven days. At the moment, in fact, has been Allied achievement, it has only deprived the enemy of two-thirds of their gains south of the Aisne and barely one-third of the territory they had won in Picardy. These Allied successes are eminently satisfactory as they demonstrate that the initiative has passed to us, and effectively counter the enemy threat at Paris. But, from the German point of view, they certainly will not spell disaster or ensure the people of Berlin to shiver for their safety. They may, however, greatly strengthen the hands of those amongst the enemy who have long maintained that a military victory is not to be hoped for. Military victory means continued advance, the capture of Paris, the destruction of armies. That many responsible Germans have held to be impossible. But whilst they consider victory on the battlefield unobtainable they seem to have no doubt whatever as to the entire ability of the German armies to prevent the forces of Marshal Foch from winning that decisive success which our bitter enemies look to terminate the struggle.

#### Peace Proposals Likely.

It may be the effect of the Allied victories during the last few weeks—that, that is to say, they demonstrate the hollowness of the military party's promise of decisive victory—we may look for some enemy move in the direction of settling the matter by negotiation. In fact, it is almost certain that the military leaders will find it impossible to persuade the people to allow them to make further desperate efforts to defeat the Allies in the field without first demonstrating to them that their opponents will not listen to any peace suggestions put forward by Berlin. Each German attempt to win a decisive victory on the field has been preceded by peace suggestions. These proposals have been put forward by their leaders to satisfy the people that only by military success could they hope to secure terms, other than those of a victor, from

the Allies. Having convinced their people of this, the Kaiser and his advisers then found it no alternative way to meet those who still insisted on making yet further sacrifices in order to strengthen the field armies. The German people, with peace, of course, are not without wars, but at long as their leaders have convinced them that peace means the ruin of the step-pieces on which their industry has been built, the loss of colonies in which they looked for their raw products, the suggested armistice lay-out would prevent their setting elsewhere, the dismemberment of Austria, the disappearance of the Turkish Empire, so long will they continue fighting. Now it is perfectly safe to assume that large sections of the German people, having read President Wilson's speeches and those of Allied statesmen in which declarations concerning no annexations and no *tabula rasa* were made, are convinced that a peace could be secured which did not entail the disappearance of Germany as a first-class power or her industrial death. Such folk will surely demand that instead of continuing to fight—which, in their opinion, would merely prolong the struggle indefinitely and bring no end, peace by negotiation should be attempted. If such attempts fail, well then they will once more resign themselves to supporting the military leaders, but it is pretty certain that they will insist on efforts being made to ascertain whether what these leaders tell them about the Allied peace terms is true or not.

#### Why Not Consider Them?

The reverses and defeats in the field recently sustained by the Kaiser's armies may have the effect of strengthening the hands of those who have peace by negotiation, and, in order to meet their demands, and, if possible, bring them again into line the military men who control German policy will almost certainly feel constrained to try diplomacy again and put out peace feelers. No doubt, if they desire a great military victory for Germany, they would be disappointed if the Allies did not insist upon the cession of Alsace-Lorraine, the retention of the emperor, the splitting up of Austria. They know that only when utterly defeated would the German people agree to such terms, and rely upon the Allies demanding these things to unite their people behind them once more. All this seems pretty obvious, but yet many people fail to realise the position. I have so often discussed the question of peace that there is little object

in doing so again, beyond once more mentioning that my main contention has always been that if Germany does make any peace suggestions these should be considered. Fighting need not stop, and the proposals, once known, could be immediately turned down if unacceptable. It is probable, that one result of Allied victories in France may be suggestions about peace from the enemy, not necessarily made by those who actually want peace, but made with the object of consolidating the people behind their leaders.

#### Do Not Slacken Effort.

Another thing which will clearly follow from these victories is a general assumption in Allied countries that not only ultimate but early victory is assured. As that may tend to slackness, it is well that the true position should be emphasised. These notable successes do, it is true, give splendid promise of further achievement, but they do not by any means suggest that we have the enemy beaten or that we will be able to push them back to the Rhine in quick order. Neither north of the Marne nor east of Amiens have our troops had to force regular enemy defences similar to those they encountered at the Hindenburg line, and elsewhere on the enemy front. Foch's victory was won in a district which had not been carefully prepared for defence, and cables telling of Haig's advance assure us that the Germans had not arranged any defensive works at all. It would seem as if the Amiens salient had been regarded by them as a jumping-off place for a further advance merely, and, that, either through underestimating their opponents or for some other reason, they did not deem it necessary to fortify their new positions.

#### Montdidier Abandoned.

Whilst at first sight the operations of Foch and Haig appear similar, actually the situations in the two salients were very different. The Allied Generalissimo forced the enemy to abandon the Marne pocket, not by the strength of his drive across the Marne, but by his formidable threats against Soissons and Fismes. The enemy held these hinges strongly, and merely opposed the French and American troops coming from the south in rearguard actions, the only object of which was to delay their advance whilst the German troops were withdrawn. They did not attempt to make a permanent stand anywhere south of the Vesle, as the hinges might have been forced,

and an entire army have been lost. The salient driven down to the Marne was much more of a "pocket" than that thrust towards Amiens in Picardy, and it was possible to compel its abandonment by threats against the hinges. In the blunter Picardy salient, however, there was no chance of driving in from north and south, and capturing an enemy army, and therefore the main assault was directed straight against the most westerly point of the salient—towards Chaulines. In the first day the British troops penetrated a greater distance into the enemy salient than the Germans advanced on the first day of either of their two offensives. Then enemy resistance stiffened, and, at the moment of writing, the British advance is held up at Chaulines and Roye. But the early success carrying our troops as it did to Rosières twelve miles north-east of Montdidier, together with French successes to the south, made the German position there impossible, and a prompt withdrawal was ordered. To get their troops away the Germans had to put up a stiff resistance at Montdidier, but in the end, when the French entered the place, they probably found few Germans.

#### The Lassigny Massif.

After their great drive down to the Marne the Germans carried out a minor offensive with the object of straightening their line between Soissons and Montdidier. They succeeded, and drove south along the Oise to the Matz River, four miles above Compiègne. This advance gave them what is known as the Lassigny Massif, hilly, wooded country, lying between that town and Compiègne. Whilst Haig was striking directly at Chaulines, the French began an offensive towards Lassigny and Noyon. Had success not followed this enterprise, the Germans might still have hung on to Montdidier, despite the British victory in the north. As it was this salient was so much narrowed that the only thing to do was to abandon it quickly. In order to get his troops away, the German commander was forced to hurry reinforcements to Lassigny and to Roye. In both places he managed to hold his own long enough to permit of the escape of the Montdidier force. Having got the bulk of these troops away, the need of holding the Massif was no longer urgent, and, apparently, instead of throwing in more reinforcements there, the Germans fell back before the furious French assault. How far they will retreat depends mainly upon what happens in the north. Now that

the fog of the earlier cables has cleared away, we can see that Marshal Foch made an attempt, on a smaller scale, somewhat similar to that on the Marne. Had the French troops from the south penetrated as far as did the British from the west, Rove would have fallen, and the troops holding Montdidier would have been captured. The Massif proved too great an obstacle, however, and failing to rush it the French failed also to trap a large number of German soldiers. The line at present runs from the Oise a couple of miles south of Novion to Laizigh, thence to Rove and then on to Albert through Chaulnes and Bray. The Germans have been driven out of the extreme end of their salient, but their present front is shorter than the old and less easy to outflank.

#### Albert the Key.

Whether the enemy falls back still farther depends upon the success that follows Allied attack north of Albert, and at Novion or some miles farther east. The only violent resistance the Germans offered to the British advance during the first two days was at Morlancourt in the north and Montdidier in the south. They held, that is, the two positions on the edge of the attack, but retreated in the centre. Montdidier had later to be abandoned owing to British and French advance north and south, but the retirement from Morlancourt was slow, and ended a couple of miles to the east. Albert remains in enemy hands. It seems evident that the Germans will be able to hold their present front if their defences between Albert and Arras prove too formidable for the Allied troops. So long as they can retain Albert and Novion British progress between these two places is unlikely. Even yet the Germans have not been driven beyond the line they took up in 1914 after the first battle of the Marne, though, here and there they have fallen back to it. They still hold Albert which was in our hands when in July, 1916, Haig began his great Somme offensive. If the Australian drive along the Somme or a British offensive south of Arras meet with success then Albert would have to be abandoned and retirement farther south be compelled. The manner in which the Germans are defending Albert suggests that they have not given up the idea of a drive towards Abbeville, though they must hold the place for some time even if they have decided to fall back to the Hindenburg line in the end. It is important to watch the cables for reference

to places like Beaumont Hamel, Beaucourt, Thiepval—all spots of proud memory for Australians. If these villages on the Ancre are taken by the Allies then Albert would fall once again into their hands, and Albert is at the moment the key position in the north.

#### Shortening the Line.

One of the most useful comments on the British victory in Picardy is that it considerably shortens the Allied front, and therefore greatly advantages us. It does, that is true, but it equally lessens the front the enemy has to hold and forces them nearer to their bases. Shortens their lines of communication. Clearly, apart from other considerations, the side which has the fewer men benefits most by having less front to hold. That is one of the most awkward things the Allies have to face. The farther they drive the Germans back the shorter the line our toes have to hold, the more dense their lines of communication become. Roughly, as they fall back, they retire down a funnel towards their bases. The easier they must find it, therefore, to hold their front, despite the fact that they have fewer soldiers than before and are greatly outnumbered. Even now the German armies must be numerically inferior to those of the Allies in France, and only their defensive works, and their inner lines of communication make it possible for them to hold their present front. As they retire on themselves, so to speak, the number of men available to defend a yard of front automatically increases, as must also the number of guns. It is well to remember this when estimating the time it will take to drive the Germans back to the Rhine.

#### The Baby Tanks.

There are some things of particular interest in the successful British drive. The victory seems to have been due in the main to three things—surprise, tanks and aeroplanes. Not only were the enemy surprised, but they seem to have made no attempt to fortify the positions which they won last March. Correspondents assure us that there were few cannon on that particular front. It was not indeed until men and guns had been rushed up from the rear that the British advance was checked. As Haig was able to launch his attack before the enemy were aware that he had concentrated men for the purpose, it shows either that we have complete command of the air or that the Allies have mastered the methods whereby the Ger-



mans carried out their concentrations without betraying their movements to our commanders. Surprise, too, was made possible by using tanks instead of cannon. Hitherto every great offensive has been preceded by a furious cannonade, the object of which was to destroy wire entanglements and hammer down defences. On this occasion, as at Cambrai, there was no artillery preparation. The tanks were relied upon to sweep away entanglements and overcome defences. As it turned out, there was no elaborate system of wire defence to delay our advance, and the baby tanks with their greater speed rushed machine gun nests in advance of the British infantry.

### Aeroplanes as Cannon.

But, novel as was the use of the tanks, one of the newest of war weapons, still more remarkable was the use made of aeroplanes. Formerly the function of the airman was to scout, and to direct the fire of batteries. Later he was armed with a gun to drive off hostile scouts, and later still was equipped with bombs. But hitherto he has taken little direct part in infantry offensives. On this occasion, however, the aeroplane largely took the place of the cannon. Instead of sailing aloft signalling to a battery commander where his shells fell, and what objectives he should pick up, the airman conveyed the death-dealing explosive to its destination itself. Not, of course, in shells, but in bombs. By this means far more damage appears to have been done, and the work of harassing the retreating enemy was far better performed. Beyond the range of our mightiest guns the airman dropped bombs on bridges, on roads, on retreating columns of men. Formerly a retirement in good order was not difficult, providing the rearguard held. Troops could be quietly withdrawn by rail and road according to schedule, and confusion could be almost entirely avoided. Once the retreating soldiers got beyond gun range, they had nothing more to fear. Nowadays, however, the flying army finds railways wrecked, roads destroyed and bridges broken far in its rear. Congestion is inevitable. Cannon have to be abandoned, ammunition must be destroyed and masses of soldiers are captured. It is undoubtedly due to the work of the aeroplanes that the prisoners taken in this comparatively short advance, exceeded those captured when the enemy retreated from the Marne Pocket. Even yet the Allies have not taken as many men in Picardy as did the Germans in their great

rush last March. On that occasion it will be remembered, according to the figures announced in Parliament, the Germans captured some 60,000 men, chiefly from the Fifth Army, which sustained the first shock at La Fere. The numbers are still mounting, though, and in the end we may surpass the enemy total. We have taken fewer guns, due, no doubt, to the fact that the Germans did not have great numbers in this salient.

### What Wilson Says—Goes!

The casualties amongst our flying machines were heavy. Haig reported a loss of 51 in a single day, but they obviously did splendid work. Here again we see the influence of America. As I pointed out last month, Foch would never have ventured on the ambitious Marne offensive had he not known that there were enough American soldiers already in France to replace, in time, all the men lost by the French and British armies. The Americans took a considerable share in the Marne battles, but in those and in the latest British offensive it was their presence in France training that made these victories possible. After long and trying delay, the Liberty aeroplane engine is being turned out in standard form, and in great quantities. Planes are being built, also to standard pattern. True, the American machines are not yet in the air any more than the American million-strong-army is in the field, but the knowledge that they will shortly be available makes all the difference. Flocks of aeroplanes will be able to hamper a German offensive, to demoralise a German retreat far more effectively than could the longest ranged and most accurate guns. By destroying lines of communication and upsetting arrangements for the despatch of reinforcements, supplies and ammunition airmen can cripple enemy effort, and in all manner of ways can hamper efficiency, and interfere with the best laid plans. It is being pretty generally recognised now that our success depends so absolutely upon the United States that in all things concerning the making of peace, and the future arrangement of the world, the American President will have the greatest voice. It is just as well to recognise this at once, as it would save a lot of foolish talk about boycotts and trade war, and territorial aggrandisement against all of which President Wilson has set his face.

### German Weakness Disclosed.

There is, in the achievements of French, British and American armies in

France ever came for repaying. These successes have disclosed the weakness of the German position, have demonstrated that enemy offensives need no longer be feared, have finally removed all dread that Paris might be captured. The German weakness is shown to be in men. In order to carry out the last two great offensives, von Ludendorff "milked" the Western armies of their best officers, and used those to batter a way through Allied defences. It was they, therefore, who suffered the heaviest casualties, consequently a loss of say a hundred thousand killed and wounded in these offensives meant the loss of 100,000 of the finest fighting men the Germans could put in the field. The armies left to hold the battle lines, having lost their staunchest and most vigorous soldiers, were quite unable to resist Allied assaults successfully. They gave way, and, in Picardy, at any rate, surrendered in great numbers. Only when picked troops were hurried to the scene was the Allied advance held up. In the early days of the war German High Command did not find it necessary to select men from different regiments to carry out important operations. The fitness and efficiency of all were pretty well equal and suffered to meet military needs. But as the drain on man power has increased, as the casualty lists mounted up, as men became war weary it was necessary to fill the ranks somehow or other, so that the numerical strength of the armies should be maintained. This was done by a general mobilisation of the whole people, which was followed by a drastic combing out of all industrial workers, and the substitution of old men and women for the physically fit in every trade in the Empire. These drastic measures filled up the regiments, but with soldiers who were obviously less efficient, less tough than those whose places they took. These "padded" armies sufficed so long as the Allies remained inactive, but as they stood could not be used to carry out any major offensive. To get men for this purpose the "milking" process was resorted to, and, for a moment, the scheme was fully justified. Failure to reach a decisive result with this carefully selected striking arm has brought its own punishment. Had the Americans not arrived in this great conflict in Europe, the weakness of the German scheme would not have been disclosed, for even would not have captured Verdun for men in a great attack, and the only one attacked did not have sufficient men to spare left to hold the offensive.

### On the Defensive.

All persons agree that the German soldiers occupying the Picardy sector were utterly exhausted, were living in the direst discomfort, and had not been relieved for weeks. In many cases they appear to have been only too glad to surrender. If he contemplates further offensives, von Ludendorff will be obliged to continue his "milking" process. If he does that, though, he must further weaken his holding armies, and that must be disastrous now that the American-backed armies of France and Great Britain are quite ready to strike. Whilst it is of course conceivable that the Germans may make another attempt to reach decision in France, it seems, at the moment, more likely that they will have to set to work to stiffen their armies now holding the battle line. If that must be done, it would obviously be impossible for them to find the men needed to carry out a great offensive. I must confess that I looked for a further enemy assault this year, but that was because I did not deem it possible for the Americans to accomplish the apparently impossible task of getting over a million soldiers to France before the fifth year of the war opened. That triumphant achievement has made all the difference. As to what the next move will be no one can say.

### The Vulnerable Spot.

The enemy are so far from their own frontier that, save in one spot, notable Allied advance would not seriously affect their position. A successful push in Flanders would, of course, deprive the Germans of the Belgian ports used by them as submarine bases, and would further cripple U-boat action, but, as far as Germany herself was concerned, would not in any way threaten her. Only in the south are the Germans vulnerable. Here a comparatively short advance would give the Allies the iron fields of Bracy, and another short step would wrench those of Lorraine from the enemy. The loss of these fields would cripple Germany as nothing else could. Yet, despite this fact, an Allied offensive from Verdun towards Metz is unlikely at present. The Germans are perfectly aware of their dependence on iron to continue the struggle, and we may be quite certain that the defences of these important mines are terrific. To launch an attack against them at present would almost certainly end in failure, yet ultimately Allied effort will have to be directed here, because nowhere else can such great results be obtained. The Germans

might be driven out of northern France, out of Belgium, back to their own frontier, but, if they still held the iron mines, their power of resistance, owing to the immense shortening of the line, would be greater than ever. If, on the other hand, Briey were wrested from them, they would soon find it impossible to hold northern France or Belgium, would have difficulty in defending their own frontier. The Germans could never have carried the war into the third year had it not been for two things. First, the capture of the Briey iron fields, second, the discovery made years before the war began, but only perfected since—of how to extract nitrogen from the air. Had they not had steel in immense quantities the Germans could not have given their armies the guns and shells with which they have defended their lines in France. Without nitrates the propellant and explosive powders used in these guns and shells could not have been made. Had the enemy not been able to get from the iron mines of France and from the air itself the two things they most needed, the war would have been over long ago. We cannot deprive the Germans of the air, but ultimately we ought to be able to take the iron mines from them.

#### The Toll of the Submarine.

The submarine sinkings for June showed a welcome drop, being only 275,629 tons, as compared with the 355,694 tons of May. Figures for July are not yet available, but we are assured they are less than for June. Not only are sinkings declining steadily, but building is rapidly increasing. America is getting into her stride, and Mr. Schwab declares that over 3,000,000 net tons will come from American yards this year. Whilst that seems hardly realisable, speeding up is undoubtedly going on apace, and before very long the entire 13,000,000 tons ordered by the Government will be afloat. Here, again, we have another illustration of the manner in which America has come to our rescue. Financially, we have Mr. Bonar Law's word for it, the United States' incoming saved us from disaster. We are having daily evidence of the effect of the arrival of American soldiers in France. Sir Eric Geddes, in his recent speech, gave figures which prove clearly enough that had the Americans not thrown themselves heart and soul into the task of building ships, the Germans might have realised their hope of starving Britain into submission with their U-boats. The First Lord told us that during the first six months of this year the

German submarines had sent 1,300,000 tons of British merchant shipping to the bottom of the sea. He did not give particulars of the other ships sunk which have had to be replaced by withdrawing vessels from the merchant marine. During these first six months British yards had turned out 760,000 tons, were away behind sinkings. There was obviously no hope of catching up this year, and had it not been for America the shipping shortage would have been indeed serious. The position would have been worse than the figures suggest, because, whilst sinkings of French, Italian and neutral shipping have been large, our Allies and the neutrals are doing very little building indeed. If America had not come along the world's shipping would have steadily declined, and, at the end of this year, the shortage would have been acute. As it is, with American help, building has overtaken sinking, and as month succeeds month, the output of American ships will rapidly increase. I hope in our next issue to tell of what America has actually done to save Great Britain, France and Italy from starvation, and show how immense is the debt the Allies owe her.

#### What is Going to Happen in Russia?

It is impossible to tell from the cables what is likely to occur in Russia, or, indeed, what is actually taking place. Allied intervention has, of course, been decided on, and the landing of an inter-Allied force on the Murman coast was the first definite fruit thereof. This was followed by the arrival of Japanese troops at Vladivostok, and the appearance of British, French and American soldiers at Archangel. To-day comes the news of a small Anglo-Indian contingent's arrival at Baku in the Caucasus. Before agreeing to intervention, President Wilson made it perfectly clear that the Allied object was not a military one—"military intervention," he said, "would be more likely to add to the present confusion than to cure it, would injure Russia rather than help her out of her distress." He went on: "In taking this action, the Government of the United States wishes to announce to the people of Russia in the most solemn manner that it contemplates no interference with the political sovereignty of Russia, no intervention in her national affairs, no impairment of her territorial integrity, either now or hereafter." This solemn declaration was followed by a British announcement on similar lines: "We not only want to stem the German penetration,

but to bring economic relief to your ruined and suffering country. We have sent some supplies and more will follow. We wish to aid the development of the industrial and natural resources of your country, not to exploit them for ourselves, to restore the exchange of goods, and to stimulate agriculture to enable you to take your rightful place among the free nations of the world. Our desire is to see Russia strong and free, then to retire and watch the Russian people work out their own destinies."

### The Allied Landing.

Only a small force of a few thousand soldiers was landed at Vladivostok, and the numbers at Archangel and Baku are not great. All the same, no matter what are the present intentions of the Allies, it is inevitable that they can avoid being drawn deeply into the Russian whirlpool. The trouble is that Russia is so split up into factions that it is impossible to appeal to the people as a whole. One faction will welcome Allied intervention, another will resent it so strongly as to oppose it with force of arms. The Germans, following time-honoured custom, have played one section against another, and the Allies will perforce have to do the same. That seems inevitable. This must involve the very interference in Russian internal affairs which President Wilson so expressly desires to avoid. Nor will a few thousand troops suffice to cope with the situation which must be speedily created. We do not know what is the true position of the Bolsheviks. We are being assured that they are entirely hopeless, that their leaders have fled, and that the people everywhere are turning against them. On the other hand, we know that they have been strong enough to dominate the situation for more than eight months, that they can still control hundreds of thousands of soldiers, that they are actively engaged fighting the Czechoslovaks. Cable news of the successes won by the latter, but only in the far east of Siberia, has they likely to be able to make continued headway against the Bolsheviks, unless they succeed in enlisting Cossacks and Russians on their side. These former soldiers of Attila are sitting on the Volga and in Central Siberia are "in the air." They have no base whence they can draw supplies, they must rely upon the country in which they find themselves for food. As long as the population is friendly they may be able to maintain it, but in the end would have to be driven to force it necessary. The only alternative. The main difficulty they

will have to contend with. It has always been experienced by armies isolated from their own country, and in the majority of cases has proved disastrous in the end.

### Intervention Entirely Disinterested.

President Wilson said: "Military action is inadvisable in Russia now only to render such protection and help as is possible to the Czechoslovaks against the armed Austrian and German prisoners who are attacking them, and to steady any efforts of self-government or self-defence in which the Russian themselves may be willing to accept assistance, whether from Vladivostok, or from Murmansk and Archangel." Evidently then our main object at the moment is to help the Czechoslovaks, yet one of the principle parties of these men is operating in the centre of Russia thousands of miles distant from any Allied landing. It seems to me certain that the Russian venture will absorb more and more Allied soldiers as the days pass. Fortunately Japan has plenty to spare, but after all what happens in Eastern Siberia will have little influence in Russia itself, and, to make our presence felt there will entail the sending of a large army to Archangel to support whichever faction we regard as most truly standing for the good of Russia. Unless we do that, it is difficult to see how disaster can be avoided. At Baku, for instance, a small force has been sent to assist the Armenians against the Turks, who, at present, have thought it necessary to despatch but a few ill-equipped troops to invest the place. Directly need arises, however, they will inevitably reinforce their army in the Caucasus, and provide it with cannon and machine guns. We would have to do the same or suffer defeat. Two months hence the White Sea begins to freeze, and communication with the forces at Archangel would have to be kept up overland from Alexandrovsk. That will be a matter of extreme difficulty, and it seems clear that we would have to throw in a large force there or else retire before the winter sets in. Of course, if, within the next couple of months, our particular faction in Russia gets the ascendancy there would be no need for this, but it is just on this important matter that we have no information whatever.

### The New States and Germany.

We need take it for granted that the Germans will do their utmost to set the Russian people against us, and strive diligently to misrepresent the reasons which have in-



duced Allied intervention. We learn already that an important conference is taking place with the object of settling the Polish question, and we are fully aware that Finland, Courland, Lithuania and Ukraina have secured their independence from Russia largely by German help. Whether justified from the American and British declarations or not, the Germans will certainly endeavour to convince the peoples of these newly created States, which have only just freed themselves from the Russian yoke, that the Allies are committed to re-establish Russia as it was before the war, and are assisting the Russians to deprive them of that liberty they have at last won. These new States are going to be the real trouble. They are naturally biased in favour of Germany, without whose help they would not have come into being, and, if Teutonic statesmen are able to avoid squeezing them to supply the needs of their own people, it is difficult to see how the Allies, helping the Russians to re-establish their old state, can win these subject peoples to their side. Here our best helpers are likely to be the Germans themselves, for, urgently in need of wheat and meat, and other supplies, they will find it almost impossible to avoid inflicting great hardship on these folk in order to secure them. Were it not for the probability of German needs leading to open strife with the Letts, the Poles, the Lithuanians, the Finns, and the Ukrainians, I can see little hope of Allied intervention having a successful issue.

### **The Japanese.**

A good illustration of the impossibility of arriving at any sound knowledge of the Russian position is given by cables telling us, first, that the peasants in Ukraina neglected altogether to sow their fields this spring, and later assuring us that several thousands of armed peasants are now engaged striving to prevent the Germans from seizing the harvests! It is difficult to believe that the Germans are worse off for grain this year than they were last. It may be that their own fields have yielded badly, but they have the rich lands of Roumania to draw on, the ryegrowing provinces of Courland and Kovno and Livonia, whilst they certainly found some supplies at Odessa and other Black Sea ports. Next year cultivation will have been resumed in the new Roumanian province of Bessarabia, and presumably in adjacent portions of Ukraina. The Germans are certain to attempt to bind

the new States to them by all manner of devices, and it would seem that only their own necessities can defeat them in attaining their object. Allied intervention at the moment certainly cannot do so. The Japanese declaration concerning the disinterestedness of their objects in landing troops in Siberia, referred to by President Wilson, has not yet appeared, but presumably the Mikado has come to agreement with Washington in the matter. No reports of the Japanese troops meeting with opposition have come through, but at present they are not likely to have penetrated far beyond Vladivostok. Now that the incident has long passed, it is interesting to recall that, although the Japanese Government was perfectly correct in denying the reports that it had landed soldiers at Vladivostok, the place was even then under Japanese control, but the instruments used were not soldiers—only marines!

### **British at Baku.**

The dramatic appearance of British troops at Baku is one of the most startling developments of the Russian situation. Where did they come from? How did they get there? We are told that they came from Bagdad and embarked at the Persian port of Enzeli for Baku. This explanation clears up the mystery. To reach Enzeli the force did not need to push through enemy territory, but traversed a part of Persia where no resistance would be encountered. Presumably it followed the same route through Persia as that taken by the Russians, who, it will be remembered, managed to send a squadron of cavalry to junction with the Anglo-Indian Army just after the surrender of Kut-el-Amara. Now, whilst the despatch of troops to Baku by this route presents no serious difficulty, the maintenance of a considerable force there would be almost impossible unless Persia were entirely won over to the Allied side or were occupied by a considerable army. The main caravan route from the Caspian Sea to Bagdad starts at Resht, near Enzeli, and runs through Kasbin (Kazvin) Hamadan and Kermanshah to the Mesopotamian border at Khanikin. It was by this road that the Russians advanced, and by which later they were forced to retire by the Turks. Tabriz, a Persian city, was occupied by the Russians, but when they retired the Turks appear to have taken possession. If they are still there they could easily cut the communications between Bagdad and En-

will. On previous maps, Germany, Marshall, would be obliged to occupy the northern Persian province in 1915. It may be, however, that arrangements have already been made with the Persian Government to permit the passage of troops and supplies from the Persian Gulf to Tiffling, over a route that insulates them of danger of Turkish attack. In any case, through the securing and reinforcement of a large number of troops at Loken presents great difficulties. Persia, though a neutral, has been made fought over, both Russians and Turks having invaded her territory, without let or hindrance. Loken is a very important spot, for it is the main Russian port on the Caspian, and close by are the great oil wells from which almost a quarter of the world's supply of petroleum is drawn. During the 1911 Russian rising in the Caucasus, there, before the outbreak of the war, the wells were set fire to, and immense damage was done. It is hardly likely that they will escape during the present fighting. The importance of the place is so great that we may certainly look for a great Turkish effort being put forward to take it. The Germans, too, are interested, and are likely to send troops to wrest it from us. (See map on page 135.)

#### In the Balkans.

Apart from this amazing adventure, little has been done in Mesopotamia, where weather conditions militate against action. In Palestine minor actions are reported, but here, too, operations are not being undertaken. In the Balkans the Italians have retired from Berat, which withdrawal has compelled the French to fall back also. The Austrians have been reinforced, and attacked vigorously. I dealt with the position in Albania at some length recently, and pointed out that we dared hardly hope the Italian activity here would have any influence on the situation in the Balkans or on the Adriatic. The country is too difficult for any great operations, and is easily defended. It is unlikely that the Italian advances will induce the Austrians to divert any troops from the Piave front, though they may have moved some regiments from Serbia. Rumours of violent quarrels between Bulgaria and Turkey over the division of the Dobruja continue, but the trouble is far more likely to be concerning the retrocession of the Adrianople strip which Turkey demands as compensation for Bulgarian territorial gains elsewhere. Tales tell of renewed Italian activity in the Trentino sector, but little more than raiding

movements from the Italian place. The Austrians appear to be too busy to remove the mountain and valley forces to the Alpine Germany, are hardly likely to move. The German efforts in France, though, may cause further serious Austrian assistance, and that can hardly be anticipated by anything in Italy. We hear less about internal troubles in Austria, but presumably if these were due to racial quarrels they are increasing. On the other hand, if they are caused by workers dissatisfied with their wages, and demanding that they are paid, it would be no advantage to them. More serious, one Austrian has done the fighting at all this year, and it is quite possible that the risk of finding the people has induced the Government to allow many men to return home to work in the fields. If an advance is to be attempted in Italy it can take place at almost any time, for fighting in Venetia is possible the year round. As, however, the best Austrian chance lies in a drive from the Trentino, that would have to be decided before snow flies in December.

#### Lloyd George and Peace.

In his war anniversary statement, Mr. Lloyd George said that Great Britain had raised 6,250,000 soldiers and sailors, and that the overseas dominions had raised a million men, India had provided 1,500,000 soldiers. He paid an eloquent tribute to the manner in which America had come to the help of the Allies, which help had made the Foch offensive in France possible. A good many people were no doubt surprised to read what he said about peace in view of the attitude taken up towards those who have favoured ending the struggle by negotiation, if possible. Dealing with the matter he declared: "There were people in every country who regarded any effort to make peace as dishonourable and unreasonable. That attitude must be steadily discouraged." He must also have made reference to the possibility of peace having been excluded six months ago, for, in commenting on his speech, the German Foreign Minister, Admiral von Hintze, declared that the Central Powers refused the Allies' proposals for a just and reasonable settlement half a year ago, and declared that the Central Powers had openly invited the Allied Powers to participate in the great Litvinski Peace Conference, which they had refused to do. It now seems pretty clear that there was, after all, a strong movement in the direction of peace

early this year. Lloyd George announced his belief in a League of Nations, so did Mr. Balfour, who, by the way, has made some extraordinary statements about peace never having been proposed by the enemy Powers, and the same belief was also declared by Lord Robert Cecil. As a League of Nations, if it is to be successful in keeping the peace of the world, must have a free hand in the matter of economic arrangements between nations to attempt to predetermine *Entente* policy towards the Central Powers, and to institute a trade boycott against them is useless. In this connection, too, the statement of the Committee, which has been enquiring into necessary rearrangements in British Company Law to meet the changed conditions after the war is over, should be carefully noted. It urged that any legislation impeding the free flow of capital to the United Kingdom should be jealously watched lest in the endeavour to prevent peaceful penetration the normal course of commercial development should be arrested. It recommended further, that no restriction should be placed on the inflow of alien capital excepting in the case of shipping and the key industries. The announcement of Great Britain's economic policy is to be made in October, and Lord Curzon declares that it will only be arrived at after consultation with the American Government.

#### Tailors of Tooley Street.

Mr. Hughes is getting quite at home in England, evidently. At any rate, his speeches now abound in the sort of expressions with which he used to delight his Australian audiences. His latest effort is to call his critics "the political tailors of Tooley Street," an expression which will no doubt gravely hurt men like Earl Beauchamp, the Marquis of Crewe, and the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, who have ventured to protest against his methods! The late Home Secretary stated that he regarded Mr. Hughes as the most vehement advocate of the council of despair (commercial boycott). Any man, he said, was entitled to enter the arena of political controversy and to violently attack political leaders, but he suggested that Mr. Hughes should first have divested himself of the character of Prime Minister of Australia. "The whole nation, irrespective of party, wished to treat one of the great dominions with profound respect and deference. Therefore it was all the more necessary that Mr. Hughes should not advance in such terms a policy which probably the

majority of the nation regarded as calculated to keep the world in a state of continued animosity and armed conflict. Above all, he should not accuse those disagreeing with him of being the agents of Germany." Mr. Herbert Samuel has evidently not yet got used to that little peculiarity of Mr. Hughes. Here, of course, we are well accustomed to it; in fact, more than half the electors of Australia were so dubbed—before the taking of the last referendum. Lord Beauchamp was unkind enough to declare that he feared Mr. Hughes' attempt to convert Great Britain to protection was likely to be as successful as his attempts to introduce conscription into Australia. But evidently Mr. Hughes has his admirers, although some have a curious way of showing it. Baron Ebury, though in his 86th year, is able to discern the genius of our Prime Minister, and has generously offered to subscribe £500 to start a fund to keep him in Great Britain. Contributions for that purpose could no doubt be raised in Australia! In giving his liberal cheque Lord Ebury declared that the amount suggested, a beggarly £40,000, was insufficient and paltry. An American millionaire, he said, would give more for a mere picture! It will be interesting to note whether Mr. Hughes will fetch more than an old master. It is to be hoped, at any rate, that enough will be subscribed to provide him with a comfortable income to settle on the other side of the world. Meantime the Imperial War Council has decided that each Dominion shall have a permanent Minister in London to attend the War Cabinet, and, although Senator Pearce is spoken of, it is also hinted that Mr. Hughes himself would like the post. Presumably an announcement on the subject will be made shortly.

#### Fixing Meat Prices.

A newspaper demand for a reduction in the price of meat was largely responsible for the embarkation of the Federal Government on the troubled sea of price-fixing. The fixing of prices is always a difficult matter, has rarely proved satisfactory, though again and again attempted since the times of the ancient Egyptians. When you once begin it is difficult to stop, and of all commodities, meat is one of the most awkward to deal with. However, Mr. Watt and his colleagues boldly attempted to secure the housewife getting her meat at a fraction less the pound than she has recently been in the habit of paying. The immediate result of this quite sincere ef-

fort of the Government to give her a fair deal was to make it almost impossible for her to get any meat at all. Whether the lack of animals for slaughter is due to a moderate attempt on the part of stock raisers to force the Government to abandon its price-fixing attempt or is due to a greater shortage is at present a matter of violent discussion. Whatever the cause, the Government is placed in an awkward position, for obviously the consumer, whilst preferring to get cheaper meat, wants to eat it, and would rather pay more than go without it altogether. To go back now, however, would seriously damage the Government's prestige, and therefore drastic measures are to be taken to secure meat somehow or other. What these are has not yet been disclosed. Before the war there was a shortage of beef in the world. America had practically ceased exporting, the demands of Great Britain were becoming greater. Those who had examined the situation declared that the shortage was going to get worse and that the price of meat would continue to rise. Immediately the war is over the demand for Australian meat will inevitably be great, and automatically the price will go up. The Americans have killed heavily to supply European needs. The cattle in France have been greatly reduced in numbers, Belgian stock has been eaten by Germans, German herds have been slaughtered to meet the home demand. Russia's beasts have been wantonly killed, and those left are being purchased by Germany. Roumania's oxen and cows have been sent to the markets of Berlin and Vienna. Years must pass before even pre-war conditions are re-established, and meanwhile meat, especially beef, will be very costly.

#### **Fish Instead of Meat.**

At the moment, however, Australia is unable to supply the British market owing to lack of shipping. It is quite natural, therefore, that the people should object to paying high prices when all that Australian stock raisers are asked to do is to supply the needs of the Commonwealth. But whilst one can understand the desire of the Government to prevent any undue profiteering, it is obviously a serious matter if, in that attempt, it curtails the raising of stock now, in view of the immense demand that there is going to be for meat later on. If by reducing the price to the consumer to-day the natural development of flocks and herds is checked, the result will be that after the war is over, the con-

sumer will have to pay far more for meat than ever before, and precisely at a time when he can least afford it. It is a very difficult problem, and on the whole one is rather sorry the Government attempted to solve it, for now it is obliged to carry the thing through somehow or other, and for the State to act as middleman appears to be the only solution. This may easily involve the taxpayer pretty deeply. One good thing should come out of the meat shortage, and that is the further development of the fish resources of Australian waters.

#### **New Zealand Notes.**

The shipping position is said to be 'worse than it has been at any period since the outbreak of war.' We have much produce and few ships, with the immediate prospect of big supplies ahead. At the present time our coal stores are practically full. The total value of produce in store awaiting shipment is a trifle over £24,000,000. That produce has been bought and paid for by the Imperial Government, but in addition we have a surplus of other produce which could be well placed on the British market if shipping was obtainable. In spite of the glut, however, food prices are still high, and the tendency is towards a rise.

It is now definitely announced that no drafts of men will enter camp during December or January. An additional 5000 names will be gazetted in three weeks' time, and the remaining men in Class C (married men with two children) will be gazetted into the Expeditionary Force in mid-September. Then a start will be made on Class D (married men with three children). The Royal Commission which has been inquiring into Defence expenditure has produced a most voluminous report. The report is flatter to the Minister of Defence, and is in most respects satisfactory. The Defence expenditure has been approximately £70,000,000, and no case of fraud, collusion, or embezzlement has been discovered. The total number of men sent abroad, or wearing uniform for general service, according to the Commission's computation, is 111,055. The Commission disapproves of clerks and such-like being in uniform and under military discipline. They condemn certain frills, and have revealed certain anomalies. There is a slavish copying of English Army methods where conditions are in many cases very different. Many proposals are made for improved methods and increased efficiency.



# HISTORY IN CARICATURE.

Oh, wad some Power the giftie gie us  
To see ourselfs as ithers see us.—Burns.

The cartoon papers have done full justice to the brilliant naval raid on Zeebrugge and Ostend. The idea of showing a cork being driven into a bottle has caught the fancy of most of the artists, and quite half the cartoons on the subject show John Bull sitting in the mouth of a bottle, or hammering a cork into it.

The American papers generally are taking up the attitude that the Allies in France are in desperate need of their assistance,

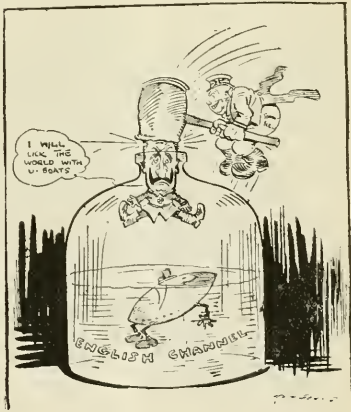
and they are, of course, fully justified in that assumption in view of the urgent messages which have been sent across the Atlantic for reinforcements.

*The Times* of Philadelphia publishes a cartoon which is indicative of the others. It shows a Sammy telling a British Tommy that he has done excellently, and now the Americans will finish the job for him.

Various cartoons continue to appear about the fighting on the Western front, but more touch on Russia and the possibility of Japanese intervention.



*The Passing Show.* [London.  
QUITE COMFORTABLE, THANKS. ARE YOU?



*Sun.* [Pittsburgh.  
HOW ABOUT BOTTLING UP THE U-BOATS  
WITH THIS KIND OF CONCRETE?





Reynold New paper ]

[London

BOTTLED UP  
Or Getting It in the Neck

The Dallas News shows the Russian stepping over the precipice in case of the will



Tribune ]

New York

COMF ON, AMERICA!

of the wisp of internationalism. A better cartoon is that of the Philadelphia Telegraph, which suggests that the bear is by no means dead yet.



Tribune ]

Philadelphia

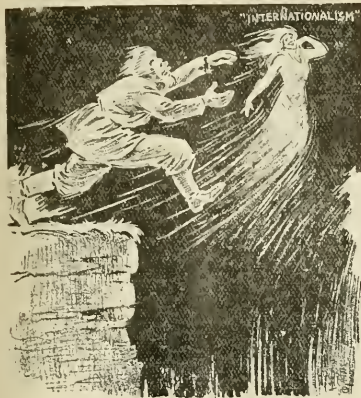
YOU'VE DONE BULLY NOW LET'S FINISH  
IT



Journal ]

Providence, U.S.A

THE DRIVE TO DEATH



[News.]

[Dallas, Texas.

IVAN, THE TERRIBLE SIMPLETON.



[Telegraph.]

[Philadelphia.

BE SURE YOUR BEARSKIN IS DEAD BEFORE  
YOU WALK ON IT.

The Elizabeth *Times* shows Germany entering the empty granary of Ukrainia, and the San Francisco *Chronicle* shows the

Kaiser carving up the bear, in which operation he is interrupted by the arrival of Japan.



[Times.]

[Elizabeth, U.S.A.

A WHEATLESS PEACE.



[Chronicle.]

[San Francisco.

THE UNINVITED GUEST.



NEW YORK  
[New York]  
[Berlin]  
LETTING DOWN A LADDER

A very clever cartoon is that which appears in the *Baltimore American*, depicting



Kladderadatsch  
[Berlin]

#### THE GERMAN HAND

Behold the hand stretched out for peace!  
With scorn and spurn it is aspersed



Another picture soon we see:  
The much-scorned hand is now reversed.



AMERICAN  
[Baltimore]  
TRYING TO REACH IT WITHOUT COMING  
DOWN OFF HIS PERCH

the Kaiser endeavouring to reach the Allied peace terms without abandoning German ambitions. The German view of the situation is given in *Kladderadatsch*.

F.C.G. is not quite so good as usual in his cartoon entitled "The Substitute." On the whole, indeed, the American cartoons are far the best just now on the situation.

The *New York Tribune* graphically shows the position in America, although the



Westminster Gazette.]

#### A SUBSTITUTE.

[London.]

"But, if it was not England's fault, then must it a substitute find."





News.]

[Dallas, Texas.

WILL HE PULL THE ROPE?

cartoon would be still more applicable to Great Britain. The lack of labour on the American farms is becoming a serious problem, and is likely to get worse. This is at the root of the agitation in favour of the introduction of Chinese labour.



Public Ledger.]

[Philadelphia.

WHY, OF COURSE WE BELIEVE IT!

Internal conditions in the Central Empires are touched on in the two cartoons on this page; that from *The Public Ledger* dealing with the rumours of labour unrest in Germany is particularly good.



Reynolds's Newspaper.]

[London.

"SPADES" ARE TRUMPS!

A Winning Card.



Tribune.]

[New York.

FIVE IN A BED AND A QUILT SHORT.

Food won't win the war if the farmer gets pneumonia from over-exposure.



The Passing Show. (London)

GENTLE PERSUASION.  
Don't alarm yourself, my dear, I had come to save you from that robber, John Bull.  
But, sir John Bull isn't robbing me?  
Ah! You do not know! You should get me your jewel-case for safe custody!

The different views taken of the recent negotiations with Holland are well illustrated by the two cartoons on this page, one from *The Passing Show* and the other from *Jugend*. The former shows the Kaiser as a robber seeking to terrorise Holland; the



Jugend. Muntch.  
THE STRAND-ROBBERS ON THE DUTCH COAST.

Muntch. I demand from you your wooden shoes! We must have everything that can float!

latter suggests that John Bull and Uncle Sam are determined to rob the unfortunate Dutch of all their ships.

The Irish question, of course, comes in for considerable notice, but few good cartoons on this subject have appeared.



London Opinion.  
THE POLITICAL CIRCUS.

The Clown. "Yes, Mr George, but what will happen when the two horses begin to go?"



Jugend. (Mississ)  
HE SCATED SOMETHING!



# Developing Our Natural Resources.

## The Need for Reforming Our Export Methods.

The following article should perhaps not appear under the above heading, but it sets out a position which it is highly important should be taken note of, if Australia is to be successful in developing her trade with the Far East. It came to me in the form of a letter from a business man of Singapore, and, with the omission of several of the cases he gives, is published as I received it. It may be that the situation in Singapore is peculiarly unfortunate as regards Australian imports, but the writer assures me that it is at any rate as bad in Java, and asserts, further, that there can be little doubt that the same conditions extend throughout the East, wherever extensive business is done with Australia.

Beneath the Australian coat-of-arms the words, "Advance Australia," appear, used in the sense, no doubt, of a national decision rather than a futile hope. Is it not correct to presume that this motto means that "things Australian" shall be advanced to the best that is possible? Despite the self-assertion of merchants, and the self-confidence of your people, can your foreign buyer have sufficient reliance in your goods to say, "Australian the best"? Do your merchants endeavour to attract future business by studying the needs of the people they serve, and acting in such a way as to give satisfaction, and gain the confidence of foreign customers? As a new-comer on the world's markets for most provision and other lines, are your goods reliable? Are they properly conditioned? Is every care given to packing and such details? Is it possible that you are courting permanent business rather than using slapdash methods to fill what is presumed to be a temporary demand for goods? In other words, does Australia appear to be out for permanent and downright honest business? As Australians, we should be in the position to say "Yes" most emphatically. Can we? We cannot! It is a shameful admission, but it is only right to be definitely truthful. An Australian abroad, patriotic, anxious to see his country take the first place, striving in every way to uphold her honour and reputation, is often compelled to shame and forced to admit that the Australian article, and too often the Australian methods of business, compare not with what is best, but with the worst.

Such an ugly fact does not sound nice, but, if true, is it not time to change such conditions?

The last few years and the next two or three represent Australia's opportunity, where one year's work means as much as thirty in normal times, and where the reputation of being British—a name that stands for reliability and straightforward dealings, qualities meriting more attention than many would-be-smart traders give—carries the necessary weight to command the attention of the prospective Eastern customer. If Australia does not make good now, but waits for that time when the war is over, and all countries in Europe and America, forced by the stern necessity of paying war debts, are putting forth every attraction that science, efficiency, art and sound business can suggest to obtain business, then Australia needs must be content to take her place as an outsider and a third-rate country. Now, *right now*, is her opportunity to make permanent customers, and there should be no need to learn the bitter lesson which the indifference and anxious greed in her present commercial policy is earning for her.

Where does Australia's main export opportunity lie? First, closer to her shores in Papua, the Dutch East Indies, Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements; second, farther afield, in the Philippines, Siam, Cochin China, Hong Kong, Ceylon, Burmah and India. The following gives an approximate idea of

the population of the various countries in question:—

(All) Papua . . . . .	(say)	1,000,000
Java . . . . .		35,000,000
Sumatra . . . . .		4,300,000
Borneo . . . . .		2,500,000
Celebes . . . . .	(say)	1,500,000
Straits Settlements . . . . .		1,000,000
F.M.S. . . . .		2,000,000
Philippines . . . . .		8,000,000
Hong Kong . . . . .	(say)	2,000,000
Cochin China . . . . .		3,100,000
Siam . . . . .	(say)	4,500,000
Burmah . . . . .		12,250,000
Ceylon . . . . .		4,250,000
India . . . . .		300,000,000

Practically all these countries are tropical or semi-tropical, and offer unlimited scope for trade. How can Australia grasp and consolidate this opportunity?

She must make her slogan, "It's Australian—the best." Her manufacturers, merchants, Chambers of Commerce and Governments must take every possible means to earn this reputation, so that every factor of their goods from the raw material to the finished product shall deserve such description before export is permitted. Her customers, and their customers again, when seeing an Australian article, should without hesitation know "It's the best."

The conditions in tropical climates are so different to your own that special knowledge is necessary to success. To this end it might seem commendable either for the Government to appoint trade advisers in likely centres, or for groups of merchants to appoint special men—their own countrymen for preference—to be permanent agents in main cities to give first-hand advice as to conditions. Most countries, new in the export business, eventually arrive at the conclusion that they must first study the market, then make standards and supervise their exports to maintain those standards.

The questions which affect you most will be these:—

*Products for export* should be the best obtainable. The despatch of inferior goods should never be allowed. Goods should be standardised and the standards maintained. Every care must be taken in the manufacture, labelling and packing. Tinned-food suppliers particularly should bear in mind that the climate to which they export is tropical, and even

lines like barley, and dried fruits and rolled oats will not keep good for more than a week or two unless in hermetically sealed tins.

*Packing*—Leaky tins are always a matter of serious consequence, and usually through this cause labels are spoilt and customers refuse to purchase. Every attention should be given to attractive and suitable labelling, and a point to be remembered in this connection is, that gum, *not* paste, must be used in attaching the label to the tin, or else the tin must be lacquered before labelling. Nearly every Australian supplier of goods places paste on labels, with the result that 90 per cent. of tinned goods arriving show rust through the label, if not when landed, then within a month. Packing is hardly understood by your merchants. The average breakage of cases on arrival is from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. In some cases the average is over 90 per cent. Frail cases and bad interior packing account for extraordinarily heavy losses.

When it is considered that people here are used to the best treatment concerning imports, and have been obtaining the finest productions of Europe and America, it is not hard to judge their opinion of Australian imports even in this time of almost universal shortage in certain lines. The writer has before him a letter from an Australian merchant in response to a protest as to the supplying of a large quantity of goods which, as to packing and quality, were a disgraceful production in every sense of the word, and in no way corresponded with the sample. The Australian merchant's reply to this matter, which meant a loss of over £600 to the purchaser, is this:—"These are very distressing times, and I suppose we must jog along and do the best we can. The people of the East should be glad to get any supplies they can at the present time." A letter such as this is, to put it mildly, "crazy." Surely your merchants, as a whole, do not adopt this attitude. If so, it is quite hopeless to expect that, as an exporting nation, you will ever hold any place. This letter is only one of several received, and such astounding statements leave one speechless. The position is unbearable. It is always possible to be extortionate when an opportunity offers,

but what chance of trust or faith in your country, her merchants or her goods can customers have, and when other sellers appear are they likely to buy of you? A man who says there is no sentiment in business has never been in the East, and if he considers honest workmanship and honest business methods as matters of secondary consideration, then his success will not be here.

The following are a few of the cases which have come under the writer's notice regarding goods from Australia. They are all of recent origin, and can be vouched for:—

*Margarine.*—Two firms received shipments about the same time. The tins and labels were all badly rusted, and, in many cases, the rust had eaten through to the margarine. Each of the buyers was glad to sell at 25 per cent. of the cost. The Australian manufacturer was astonished that compensation should be asked, so none was forthcoming.

*Disinfectant.*—The agent for the manufacturer supplied in gallon tins so frail that every case was leaking on arrival. The lot had to be reconditioned and re-labelled. Lloyds reported a considerable amount as compensation due to buyers. The product in this case was good, with the exception that a certain percentage of tins were filled with a much inferior disinfectant. The agents in Australia for the buyers, ignoring their responsibility, stated that compensation could not be obtained from the manufacturers. The claim being unpaid by either party, the agents then brought forward a proposition to supply "a much superior disinfectant," intimating that they had discontinued business with the first manufacturers. The new shipment was guaranteed to be as perfect as possible in packing and every other respect, and satisfaction was guaranteed. This second lot arrived; not only was the product much inferior, but, being packed in rusted kerosene tins, over 80 per cent. of the contents leaked away before arrival. The buyers had to obtain special tanks to save the remainder.

*Sauce.*—The first lot was sent according to sample in clear sauce bottles, later supplies came in beer bottles, and finally in whisky flasks.

*Bar Soap.*—This order was based on a hard sample of a good yellow colour (in explanation it is well to say that the colour, percentage of moisture, and packing of bar soap are the important items). Some 2000 cases were ordered on this sample. The goods received were white in colour, quite soft, containing a high percentage of moisture, and absolutely unsaleable in such condition. The soap was packed loosely in second-hand half fruit cases, in many of which there was a considerable amount of earth. Much of the contents was besmeared with dirt. Lloyds' report stated that the deterioration, owing to bad packing, inferior quality and colour represented 50 per cent. The agents for the manufacturer disclaimed responsibility, and said manufacturer was satisfied the shipment was according to sample. The agent himself did not actually see the goods before despatch. The buyers were only able to sell the soap at half cost price, where execution according to sample would have left an ample margin of profit.

*Flour.*—This is sold according to standard weights. The bags when received were each some pounds below the average weight, and so small that they had no possible chance of holding the required amount.

*Jams.*—Every shipment of a particular manufacturer contained 25 per cent. of leaking tins; result, labels ruined; jams unsaleable. Manufacturers deny possibility of leaking. Agents later acknowledge defects. No excuses.

*Cheese.*—This was packed in salt and husks, and despatched before being properly matured. Goods were sweating badly on arrival and uneatable—compensation refused.

*Tinned Cheese.*—On arrival tins were all distended through fermentation, the cheese having been packed when green. Manufacturers admit no responsibility. A total loss ensues to the buyer.

*Onions.*—Despite the warning to shippers that the onions must not be shipped in a ripe condition, and the assurance of shipper's agents regarding this clause, the goods were put on board in a prime condition, thus showing utter disregard of the buyer's interests and instructions. On arrival, practically the

whole lot was condemned, being utterly rotten.

*Barley.*—There is a large quantity of good white barley consumed by the Chinese. A trial shipment was received in 2 lb tins. The grain had been packed in a wet condition, and arrived black and mouldy. Strangely enough, the suppliers enquired why there were no repeat orders.

*Vinegar.*—A small lot of some thirty cases was received. The packing consisted of 1-8th in. wood cases, without even cross planks. Not one case survived, while the bottles were taken from the wharf in baskets.

*Condensed Milk.* under various brands, arrives in a particularly leaky condition, owing to carelessness in soldering when capping.

*Biscuits.*—These will not keep unless in tin containers. One big firm is putting tin on the top and bottom, but paste-board round the sides. People are not deluded for long, and the firm obtains a bad name. Many bad and some good biscuits come from Australia, but at first the mistake is always made of putting paste on the labels, with resultant rusty tins. Often these goods are packed in the most frail cases, without lining, and arrive in a deplorable condition.

*Vinegar Pickles.*—The consignment referred to was packed in bottles of varying sizes. The corks used had done service before. The pickling could not have been done by experts, as 90 per cent. of corks had blown out and the liquid escaped. In this case the packers offered to make good the loss.

This list could be continued to a great length as far as the writer's observation is concerned, but it is only necessary to add that apart from goods delivered, Australian merchants and manufacturers constantly agree to deliver goods, make contracts to do so, and, through possibly some better price offering elsewhere, fail to make good, and offer to the original buyer the very unusual excuse about prohibition, or the army contracts, or else ignore the contract altogether.

Another point, and one of the first importance, is a right business policy. If

by any chance whatsoever the wrong goods are supplied, or they arrive in bad condition, then every consideration should be given as to compensation. You can never justify a thing that is wrong, and any attempt to do so only makes matters worse. The wisest policy—the one which will pay the Australian manufacturer best in the end—is, to make an immediate and earnest effort to convince your customer that he will get a square deal from you even if you have to lose. The good point about such a policy is, *you can't lose* in the end.

*Credits.*—No matter what other nations are compelled to do at the moment, it would be advisable to grant a certain amount of credit to reputable firms. They ask for good treatment; they do not get it from Australia. Anyone, anywhere, can buy goods on Confirmed Letter of Credit basis.

*Commercial travellers* should be sound, level-headed men—men to command confidence and respect; not those who, in their restricted circle, have been used to every kind of trick to obtain orders. Your entry into this field as successors to the British, can only deserve success by honest methods and workmanship. Thus only will you obtain and hold the goodwill and respect of the East.

*The time* is peculiarly favourable for Australia. It may interest you to know that America is organising at the moment, through the big packing houses, to boost her products in this and other parts of the East. Once this movement is in full swing, Australia will find immense difficulty in retaining her present footing in connection with these parts. America is now supplying goods to numerous firms on a credit basis of 30, 60 and 90 days.

In conclusion, the writer trusts you will impress on your readers the need for a re-constructed view of the export business in Australia to the end that the aim will eventually be to attain a reputation, as exporters of first-class manufactured goods, and not merely as exporters of raw materials.



## BOYCOTTING GERMANY.

*The New Republic*, which is noted for the sanity of its articles on the war, and for the soundness of its reasoning, publishes an article on the question of instituting a boycott of Germany.

In history the boycott has served almost exclusively as the last resource of the weak and the defeated. It was first employed with a modicum of success by the miserable tenantry of a rack-rented district of Ireland, who endowed it with name and fame to travel abroad and to reanimate the hopes of groups beaten in economic or political conflicts. In America we have become familiar with the boycott as an incident of unsuccessful labour struggles, as a chief arm in the curious arsenal of organisations like the Knights of Labour that lacked really effective power. The boycott has been used to bolster up a forlorn hope by the Hindu nationalists; it has been employed by the Chinese, helpless in the face of occidental injury and insult, and by the Turks in vain protest against Italian aggressions in Tripoli. And now it is proposed that America and her Allies should unite to penalise Germany by a boycott of German goods after the war.

It would, of course, be going too far to say that the project of the boycott of Germany is supported chiefly by those who despair of winning the war, although the volume of boycott discussion tends to increase whenever the temporary success of German arms appears to postpone the day of Allied victory.

There are naturally millions of persons in the Allied countries who find it hard to conceive that they can ever again willingly enter into civil relations with a people who have inflicted upon them losses for which there can be no reparation. Many a man whose son has been killed in France will for a long time, if not for life, regard Germany and all her works with aversion. He will not limit his repugnance to wares that are characteristically German, but will avoid even staple wares that he knows to be of German origin. A corresponding prejudice against American and British and French wares will be manifested by Germans who have lost sons and brothers in the war. And traders in every country will exploit this sentiment, to facilitate the sale of their own wares. These are natural and unavoidable consequences of war. The civil structure of commercial co-operation can be restored only with difficulty and after a considerable lapse of time.

But the idea of a boycott of Germany is entertained by statesmen as well as by private persons, who have suffered, and by traders who hope to escape future German competition. The writer in *The New Republic* declares that we must look at the matter from the point of view of victory over Germany not from

the point of view of defeat. What ends, he asks, shall we achieve by the boycott of a defeated Germany that we cannot better achieve by other means?

What victory can profitably achieve is to drive Germany back within her proper national boundaries and to compel her to make reparation for the injuries she has wrought in acknowledged violation of the law of nations. This will mean for the German Government one of the most colossal defeats in history. From her dream of world empire she will have been thrown back upon herself, bound hand and foot in her own debt, her industries crippled, her manhood decimated. Such will be the immediate effect of Allied victory. But there are ulterior effects to be taken into account that have an important bearing upon the future peace of the world. Military autocracy thrives upon victory; under defeat, unaccompanied by menace from abroad, it is discredited among the people upon whose docility it depends.

Will a boycott of Germany, he asks, enforcing a continuance of her economic isolation, help to discredit military autocracy in the country? After the war the German people will expect full rations and adequate supplies of the raw materials essential to the resumption of employment. This involves heavy importation, but how is Germany to pay for imported food or materials?

The war has exhausted her stock of goods, and her current production is already mortgaged to the replacement of machinery and equipment worn out by war. The extirpation of her selling agencies in the greater part of the world deprives her of a ready market for the special products that do not draw heavily upon imported materials, and the rise of competing industries, as in the case of chemicals and dyes, closes the market for other special products. She cannot afford to part with her small stock of gold, impounded in her banks as a tenuous security for her huge paper circulation. She cannot float public loans abroad, since her credit is already strained past recovery. The private credit of her business men will hardly be a favourite investment abroad, since there is no one who does not anticipate a great financial crash in Germany following upon the relaxation of military administration. However generously the Allied Governments may proceed in the matter of commerce with Germany, the trade of Germany can re-establish itself only after a succession of painful crises calculated to bring home to every German solid if desolate conclusions on the economics of military adventure. To the actual hardship that the Germans must endure a boycott would contribute little.

He considers that a boycott would serve the German Government as an excellent cloak for the effects of its mis-



deeds and mistakes. Germany will want Australian wool and wheat, American cotton and corn, and all sorts of other raw materials under the control of the Allied combination. She will want them, and will be unable to pay for them.

If, however, we will do the German Government the favour of denying these supplies to Germany absolutely, it can shift the blame for scarcity and dearth from its own incompetence to Allied animosity. The German Government can make a bond of union between itself and its people out of a condition that would otherwise deprive it of the popular confidence by which it lives.

The military policy of the Allies is directed towards discrediting the system of military government in Germany.

The German Government itself shakes under defeat, attenuated though the force of the blow must be in passing through a million breasts of men who truly did not will this war. There is no medium through which "the war after the war" can strike home to the Kaiser and the German General Staff. They will not go about short of food and inadequately clad. They will lack nothing though Germany becomes a hermit empire. What they will gain is a general sentiment of animosity toward the world that will make a forlorn virtue out of even a lost war.

One of the principal arguments in favour of a boycott of Germany is that it would isolate her economically, and would therefore prevent her from accumulating wealth wherewith to carry on later wars. This writer points out, however, that a nation does not need to accumulate wealth through trade in order to be a danger to its neighbours.

## QUEBEC AND THE WAR.

Many articles have been written on the attitude of Quebec towards the war, and the French-Canadians have been violently attacked for their luke-warmness in recruiting, their opposition to conscription. Quite one of the most informing articles on the subject is contributed by Henry Franklyn Gadsby to *The Century*. In answer to the question as to why Quebec opposed the draft, he says, "because Quebec is Quebec, and has been so ever since the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Her present frame of mind is just 155 years old." But he insists that Quebec is loyal to England, and has proved it by repelling a couple of American invasions of Canadian soil, but at

Germany can maintain out of her own resources enough fighting men to put to the test the strength of the remaining European Powers. Out of her own resources she can munition them and supply them with guns. Thus she is proving to-day. She needs only to reconcile her people to a life of grinding labour and poverty, to remain a terrible menace to Europe unless her heart changes. Hard-trained Junkers are even now extolling the new type of German, stripped of all wants and all flesh not serviceable for war. They are praying that the type may be perpetuated in peace. An Allied boycott would help to grant them their prayer. It would aid the Junkers in building up in Germany a form of life with nothing to lose and much to gain through war.

He holds that we should avoid all appearance of a policy whose purpose, even incidentally, is to wreak injury on another nation with which we are formally living on terms of peace. Such policy, if directed against Germany, would merely play into the hands of the German Government, and postpone its day of retribution. To refuse to institute a boycott against Germany does not mean, though, that we must return to the more or less negligent commercial conceptions that prevailed before the war.

We may find it to our national interest to restrict the operation upon our soil of commercial agencies that lend themselves to "peaceful penetration." We may find it desirable, at least in the period of reconstruction, to assure ourselves that pressing domestic needs are supplied before we permit heavy withdrawals for export of vital necessities. We may seek to assure our continued independence of foreign sources of supply in the case of commodities holding key positions in industry. These are points that are debatable in terms of the national interest alone.

the same time she is not at all warm towards England's wars.

The more English march away to war, the more French are left behind in Quebec. . . . The other eight provinces may do what they like, but Quebec will stay at home and conserve her natural resources and her amazing birth-rate, which is the stuff her dream is made of. This explains her indifference to this world-war for freedom, her active hostility to the compulsory features of the Military Service Act, which resulted in a solid Quebec as against the rest of Canada in the general election of last December.

Quebec, says Mr. Gadsby, is Canadian pure and simple. Though we choose to call the inhabitants of Quebec French-

Canadians, the truth is that they are the only unhyphenated Canadians in Canada.

All the rest have an eye on England or Ireland or Scotland or whatever country they or their forefathers hailed from, but the French-Canadians have kept both eyes on their native land. Their motto is Canada for the Canadians and the Canadians for Canada, and they have held to that gospel in a century and a-half of British rule. They are the fiercest of chauvinists. They burn with patriotism, but the patriotism is for Canada, not to that larger vision which is the British Empire.

Many people have asked how it is that in this war, French-Canadians should not enthusiastically support the sending of troops to defend their mother country. The answer to that, says Mr. Gadsby, is that France is not Quebec's mother country at all.

France to-day is only Quebec's forty-second cousin and a comparative stranger to a Quebec which has remained seventeenth or at most eighteenth century in language, modes of thought, piety, and political aptitudes. When Louis XV. shrugged his shoulders and spoke lightly of Canada as "a few arpents of snow," he threw a chill into Quebec from which she has never recovered. Quebec realised that she was left to herself and that she must work out her own salvation under British rule. And she loved France none the more for Louis's cynical good-by. Outside the English of the eastern townships and the wealthy English of the Island of Montreal, Quebec is as French as she was in Montcalm's time. France has marched on, and Quebec has stood still, which makes the gap that much wider between Quebec and her quondam mother country. The province has been enriched by few immigrations from France since the British conquest, and is filled with the descendants of the French who were here in 1763. Quebec is a sort of family compact on a wholesale scale. She preserves the religion Bishop Laval taught her, the civil law Louis XV. gave her, and the language the encyclopædists wrote in, somewhat disfigured by Indian adulterations. In short, Quebec and *la belle France* have drifted a long way apart.

Concerning the recent elections he says that it is a safe wager that if a referendum had been taken on the question of conscription, "it would have been snowed under as badly in dual language Canada as it was in Australia, which is more English than the English. It was because the issue was tied up with a general election, which meant a pacific Premier and an indifferent Quebec in charge if it went the wrong way, that the verdict against Sir Wilfrid Laurier was so overwhelming." Whatever the attitude of the politicians, however, the people were earnest enough.

It is quite true that the politicians, who will play politics though the heavens fall, had ulterior reasons for passing the Military Service Act, said reasons being to split the Liberal party, save the fittest members of the Borden administration, bring about Union government, dish Sir Wilfrid Laurier for good, and head off a Government in which Quebec would be top dog; but the people took the act at its face value. Win the war might be camouflage for win the election with the politicians, but not with the people.

Mr. Gadsby does not mention the fact, but it is pretty obvious, that Quebec will be the last of all the provinces to contribute great numbers of conscripted men towards the maintenance of the Canadian forces in France, for, under the Military Service Act the first call is on single men from 21 to 35, the second on single men from 35 to 45, and then on men with one, two, three, four, five children, and so on. As the French-Canadians marry very young, and have large families, it will be some time before they are seriously affected by the draft. Mr. Gadsby expresses himself as confident that Quebec will forget parish politics and join with her sister provinces in building up the greater Canada that must emerge from the war.

## PRESENT-DAY ARMOUR.

Gunpowder caused the shedding of the armour which had protected the world's fighting men for ages, and for the last hundred years and more armour has been relegated to the museums, save in the case of certain mounted regiments which still preserve the old breastplate, more for show than for use. During the present struggle, however, steel armour is being increasingly used. The armoured tank waddles imperturbably astride of machine gun positions, and cleans out the

operators therein, saunters down streets in the face of crackling infantry fire. Armour coats the engines, and most of the crew of aeroplanes. It surrounds light motor cars; it covers the head of every soldier of the fighting nations outside Russia. It has been tentatively taken up as body covering in the form of layers of canvas or steel or of woven steel links. Most of these things are practicable only when the forces are in a state of relative deadlock. Their

weight would hamper troops on the march, but at present there is a relative deadlock on the Western front.

Edward C. Crossman, writing in *The Scientific American*, gives some account of modern armour and armour-piercing bullets. He says:—

After every war, authorities and near authorities emerge with a full list of the conclusions drawn therefrom, which are final and admit no argument. Thus the Boer war did away with the bayonet. The British were very bitter about this weapon. What was the bally use, they asked, of a bloomin' bayonet when the bally Boers didn't even allow them to get close enough to do fair rifle shootin'? And echo answered, "What"? Our M 1903 rifle had a bayonet installed only after much controversy, and then only because it could also be utilised as a cleaning rod. As a cleaning rod it was fairly efficient, as a bayonet it was a fair cleaning rod. However, before all the bayonets were beaten into pruning hooks and safety razors, the Japanese got into their Manchurian argument with Russia, and the bayonet hastily came back into its own.

He concludes that it is doubtful whether to-day armour would have been revived as it has been were it not for the many things of lighter penetration than bullets which are flying about the battlefield—shrapnel, shell splinters, grenade fragments, bayonet points. The German shock troops wear specially designed steel breastplates as well as their steel helmets. The Italians use a sort of shield which enables them to advance in the teeth of furious machine gun fire.

Mr. Crossman illustrates his article with various photographs showing bullets which have failed to penetrate or have only partially penetrated steel armour, and gives a detailed account of the most successful armour-piercing bullet yet evolved in America. It is designed by Captain Clay, and differs from any other bullet in that it is closed at the rear and filled from the front end of the jacket, giving higher penetration because of the lessened stripping tendency of jacket and lead. It also has a softer nose, which enables it to bite on hardened steel surfaces instead of merely glancing off, as does the service bullet with its sharp nose and long shoulder.

On hardened steel, as near armour specifications as we could obtain, the effect of the piercer bullet was even more marked. At the muzzle it romped through  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hardened steel, on which the service bullet merely spattered; at 400 yards it got through  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch.

though this was possibly not quite up to Government quality. The trials demonstrated that the making of steel for this light armour is in itself a ticklish job. One piece,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick and glass hard, shattered to bits under the bullet blow. On such steel as this the service bullet does not even offer to go through, merely putting a wide and very shallow dent in the plate; it gives just a blow, without drilling tendency. This is true even on the light 15th inch field-gun armour.

He is satisfied that the Clay bullet will go through the present shield and apron of the Americans' field guns at 500 yards, and at 300 yards would ruin their tanks with their quarter-inch protection. The light shrapnel helmet stops it at long range, and so does the armour of an aeroplane, but the bullet will go through the former at 2000 yards, and through the latter at 1000. He mentions, however, that the British tanks are much more heavily armoured than the American.

The Germans are not behind us in the development of armour-killing projectiles. Before me lies a German piercer bullet from the Ypres salient, with which a sniper was filled through a quarter-inch of armour steel. This is a whale of a bullet, far too long to feed through the magazine of a rifle or machine gun without some change of parts. It consists of the usual hardened steel slug, leaden wall, and surrounding steel jacket; but the slug alone is as long over all as our complete service bullet, weighing 80 grains against the 45 of the Clay slug. It is very sharp pointed, although the taper is not long; and it is boat-shaped, having a tapering tail of only 20 inch. While it has hit steel, so that the lead core is nearly all missing, the fragments remaining weigh 147 grains, giving a mass around 200 grains for the finished bullet.

The disadvantage of the German armour piercer, which is probably much more effective than the Clay bullet, is that it cannot be fired from an ordinary rifle. It is apparently used in special rifles, resighted for it by snipers, or, in special machine guns, altered to handle the long cartridge.

The one general objection to all these armour-piercing bullets is that, after completing penetration, they are reduced to tiny steel shot of .218 to .24 calibre; the remainder of the bullet disappears into thin air on impact with the steel. The wounding power of a steel slug of such size and weighing but 46 grains is less than that of the familiar .22 long rifle, in spite of the advantage in velocity at the short ranges. But, in spite of this, these bullets will greatly reduce the enthusiasm for steel bullet-stoppers; even a .218 hole in one's anatomy is more discouraging than none at all.

## GERMANY'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

*Politicus*, in *The Fortnightly Review*, in order to sustain his argument that Germany would be fully able to pay an immense war indemnity without being ruined thereby, gives some particulars of the natural wealth of the country. He objects to the assertion that Germany's wealth is mainly due to the better education of the German people and to their industry and their frugality. He says that an industrious, ambitious, well-trained, well-governed and well-directed nation cannot hope to accumulate great wealth unless it possesses great natural resources. "Greenland would remain poor even if all the Eskimos were Carnegies and Edisons." All the same industry, scientific research and method are needed if resources of any kind are to be turned to the best advantage. He insists that Germany is endowed with very great and exceedingly valuable natural resources, and enumerates these as follows:—

1. By far the greatest mineral resources in Europe, especially coal, potash and iron ore;
2. A geographical configuration most favourable to the development of agriculture and industry;
3. An unrivalled system of natural waterways which opens up the country in all directions;
4. An invaluable strategical position in the centre of the Continent which is as helpful for commercial conquest as for military aggression.

Coal is the dominating and determining factor in modern industry, and in modern commerce and transport. All three require gigantic quantities of coal. *Politicus*, therefore, presents a table of the coal resources of Europe, which shows that Germany possesses more than one-half of the coal of all Europe, and more than twice as much as the United Kingdom.

Germany is supreme in Europe in the most important of all minerals. It need scarcely be explained that supremacy in coal, in power, is a tremendous advantage to a modern industrial and commercial State. Germany's coal is an asset of truly gigantic value. At the very low average price of 10/- per ton at the pit's mouth—a price which is bound to increase greatly in course of time—her store of coal alone represents a capital of £211,678,000,000, a sum which is thirty times as large as England's estimated war expenditure up to March 31st, 1919, and about fourteen times as large as what is usually called the National Wealth of the United Kingdom.

In view of her colossal wealth in coal it is of course ridiculous to say, as many people do, that Germany is naturally a very poor country, and that she cannot pay a heavy indemnity in case she should be defeated.

Whilst this certainly shows that the national wealth of Germany is great, it is only right to point out that if the United Kingdom has half the coal supplies of Germany then the national wealth of that country in coal alone must be equal to £100,000,000,000. I have often dealt in these pages with the coal and iron of Germany, and pointed out that most of the coal mines, and the majority of the iron mines are all situated in the western portion of the country, the latter indeed almost entirely in Lorraine. Says *Politicus*:—

Germany possesses in round figures 4,000,000,000 tons of iron ore actually in sight. In addition to that vast quantity she has, according to the expert information supplied in the table, very considerable reserves, for which, however, accurate estimates cannot as yet be given. If we assume that Germany's iron ore is on an average worth 5/- per ton, which seems a reasonable figure, for its price is likely to increase, her store of iron ore actually in sight is worth about £1,000,000,000. It is therefore a considerable asset, although its value is small if compared with the truly gigantic sum represented by the value of Germany's coal. At the rate of 5/- per ton, the Lorraine-Luxemburg iron ore alone would be worth £750,000,000.

But Germany is rich above all things in mineral salts of every kind, and she has an absolute world monopoly in the particularly precious potash salts.

The extent of her salt deposits is not yet exactly known. They are so vast that it is impossible to measure them and to calculate their contents. From year to year the known area of her subterranean deposits of salt and potash has been increasing. It is believed by many that almost the whole of the North-German plain and part of South Germany rest on salt deposits so gigantic that they almost defy measurement. Bore-holes have been sunk through 6000 ft. of solid but soluble salts of all kinds without coming to the end, and nobody knows how much deeper one has to go to find their foundation.

Of all the mineral salts in Germany soluble potash is the most valuable—at present—but it is necessary to make that limitation as science may discover still more precious salts in the gigantic store. Not only is potash of great importance in chemistry and other industries, but it is one of the most valuable and the most necessary fertilisers known.



Germany's great agricultural prosperity and the progressive yield of her crops are largely due to her wealth in potash and in phosphoric iron ore which furnish her with the most precious fertilisers.

In Australia, and, indeed, throughout the world, great difficulty has been experienced in the making of glass, owing to the inability to secure potash, which is a necessary ingredient in this manufacture. It is also required for glazing earthenware, iron smelting, soap production, and for making explosives, sulphur, coal tar dyes, chloride of potash, sulphate of potash, saltpetre, chloride of lime, etc. The production of potash in Germany has greatly increased during the last twenty years, as the following table shows:—

1861 . . . . .	2,293 tons
1866 . . . . .	143,000 "
1871 . . . . .	300,747 "
1876 . . . . .	586,196 "
1881 . . . . .	943,963 "
1886 . . . . .	1,041,545 "
1891 . . . . .	1,370,013 "
1896 . . . . .	1,782,673 "
1901 . . . . .	3,484,865 "
1906 . . . . .	5,129,439 "
1911 . . . . .	9,606,900 "

The value of exports of salts in 1913 exceeded £10,000,000. Most of Germany's potash went to the United States, England, Holland and Sweden. *Politicus* makes the following calculation as to the value of the deposits:—

The quantity of salts and of potash possessed by Germany is immeasurable and inestimable. In Germany it is frequently stated that the country can, at the present rate of consumption, supply the world with potash for at least five thousand years. Owing to over-production, the price of potash has been kept low, at about 10/- per ton. If we estimate that Germany possesses only 50,000,000,000 tons of easily accessible potash, it would, at the low price of 10/- per ton, represent a value of £25,000,000,000, a sum which is twice as large as the so-called national wealth of France. However, science

may, and probably will, before long discover further uses for the gigantic quantities of salts of which Germany has apparently a monopoly. Hence the value of Germany's store of salts is as unmeasurable as is its quantity, and its value may before long very greatly exceed the figure mentioned.

Providence, goes on *Politicus*, has been very kind to Germany. The configuration of the country is eminently favourable to the development of agriculture, and of all the industries. Germany has an absolutely unique system of gently flowing navigable rivers, which are easily regulated and follow parallel courses towards the North Sea and the Baltic. "No other country possesses similar favourable conditions for the development of inland transport by land, and especially by water." We would remind *Politicus*, however, that Providence is not entirely responsible for the wealth of Germany. There are other countries, Russia, for instance, which equal Germany in magnificent waterways and watered plains and the like, but the Russians and others have hitherto failed to take advantage of the gifts of Providence as have the Germans. In conclusion, *Politicus* says:—

The details given make it clear that Germany owes her vast wealth very largely to the possession of great and exceedingly valuable natural resources. Her wealth in the three minerals with which she is particularly abundantly supplied may be summarised as follows. Germany possesses:—

423,356,000,000 tons of coal at 10/- per ton, equal to £211,356,000,000; 4,000,000,000 tons of iron ore at 5/- per ton, equal to £1,000,000,000; 50,000,000,000 tons of potash at 10/- per ton, equal to £25,000,000,000. Total, £237,678,000,000.

The figures given indicate that Germany's natural riches are far greater than is believed by those who tell us that Germany's national wealth comes only to £15,000,000,000, that the country will be ruined if defeated, and that she cannot pay a war indemnity, and certainly not an adequate one, even if the Allies should gain a complete victory.

## CONFESSIONS OF A NOVELIST.

Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart is one of the most successful novelists of the day, and, in a very personal article in *Pearson's*, she gives some idea of how she has won her way to prominence. But the article is more than a mere account of her methods and her achievements; it tells of her life with a delightful frankness which is as rare as it is charming. Her life has been purely objective—"My

family and my work, the family first." On this point she says:—

Now and then, however, comes a time when it is flatly the family or my work. Every woman of the many who are carving out careers for themselves, whether it be on the stage or the concert platform, or in a small way in a salaried position, knows what this is. It never happens to the man. His work is always first. And he cannot always understand the woman's struggle. Because with



her it is a matter of conscience. She may be able to employ skilful people to take her place in the home. She may install a housekeeper and a trained nurse. Always, if she be a true woman, there is going on in her the struggle. Perhaps, in a few years, it will be the accepted thing to consider that, having brought her children into the world, a mother may then pursue a gainful occupation without further serious responsibility for them. I hope not, but I fear it is coming.

But that is not true now. And because I have been among the path-finders of this new world of independence I know how hard the trail is. Financial independence is to many women who achieve it suddenly an intoxication. When, added to that, there is the glamour of success, the applause of the crowd, it is not easy to remain simple and unaffected. The world expects a pose, and is rather disappointed not to find one.

Mrs. Rhinehart did not begin to write until she was 28. Children she would have had in any case, but she regards it as fortunate that her sons came before she began to write.

Even my hospital experience, which rent the veil of life for me and showed it often terrible, could not change that fundamental thing we call the maternal instinct. I was almost fiercely a mother. But my children came first. I had no thought in those days of any other career than motherhood. To-day I would forfeit every particle of success that has come to me rather than lose any part, even the smallest, of my family life. It is on the foundation of my home that I have builded. I mean it.

The first cheque she received was for a little article, telling how she had systematised the work of the household among two maids and a coloured buttons. Then she wrote verses, which were a flat failure.

I still have them somewhere. I took them to New York, and I spent one day there—a heart-breaking day, going from publisher to publisher. In only two offices did I see any responsible person, and I met a negative in every case. The market was crowded with children's verse. But one man was very kind to me, and to that publishing house later I sent "The Circular Staircase," my first novel. They published it, and some eight other books of mine.

I went back to the train that night aching with fatigue. I had walked more than I should have, and my silk stockings were in tatters. But I had learnt what *not* to write.

The first recognition I gave my work, the first time it definitely established itself in the family, was by the purchase of a desk. I had been using a tiny mahogany one, varied by a card-table. Even now I have a sneaking fondness for writing on a card-table. It is so low and so movable. It can sit by the fire or in a sunny window. And I was most awfully pleased once to go to Booth Tarkington's

house in Indianapolis for tea, and to find in his study a big desk, with all sorts of things on it—except his work—and a card-table covered with manuscript by the fire. I still have that first desk of mine. My secretary uses it. Nothing in the world would make me part with it.

She found writing frightfully hard at first as the family life depended so much on her.

I had always been there, ready to be drawn on like a tap, for service, for advice, for the servants, for my friends, but most of all for my children. I found that when I wanted to write I could not, and then when leisure came and I went to my desk, I had nothing to say. The only thing to do seemed to be to go to the desk and there get to work. Good, bad, or indifferent, to write.

And things have a way of working out for good, after all. For after a time—but it was a long time—I learnt to work when the chance came. The total result of this, after twelve years, is that I have learnt to sit down at my desk and begin work simultaneously. One thing died, however, in those years of readjustment and struggle. That was my belief in what is called "inspiration."

Other things bothered me in those early days. I seemed to have so many things to write about, and writing was so difficult. Ideas came, but no words to clothe them. Now, when writing is easy, when the technique of my work bothers me no more than the pen I write with, I have less to say. I have words, but fewer ideas to clothe in them. And, coming more and more often is the feeling that, before I have commenced to do real work, I am written out.

The truth is that my creative powers have grown faster than my creative ones. I am always dissatisfied. I write and rewrite, and destroy. I am afraid of reading my book reviews for fear of meeting an honest critic. I go scourged to my desk. Yet I go on writing. It is, very definitely, a part of my life.

At first she always worked at home, but now writes in a couple of bright, attractive rooms in the city.

It takes me out of the house. The short ride in the train or the motor to the city detaches me automatically from the grocery list and a frozen pipe in the garage. My desk is ready; my secretary is waiting. Sometimes I work all day; sometimes I look over my mail and go out to luncheon and do not come back. Then, automatically, the train or car going home detaches me from publishers and autograph hunters and pen and ink and paper. I am ready to play.

She rejoices that her family think she is a much better mother than a writer. "I have never wanted or expected to be famous. Even such success as has come to me never ceases to surprise me." "Most of the people who really work are

totally unbohemian." "I am tempted to say that among writers only those will last, physically and mentally, who keep

away from the tumult and the shouting. . . . New York has killed more writers than it has made."

## CONSUMPTION CURED BY THE SUN.

Tuberculosis is one of the most terrible of all scourges, and poor, distressed France suffers terribly from it. The recent reports of the American mission sent by the Rockefeller foundation make terrible reading. Though, according to official statistics, only 86,000 persons succumb annually to the disease in France, actually the number who die from tuberculosis is over 150,000. The causes of death is not reported as consumption, but as specific bronchitis, cachexy, etc., and is thus entered under different headings, but that does not alter the fact that tuberculosis claims over 150,000 victims every year. Some 20,000 die from what is known as osseous tuberculosis, for the cure of which M. Georges Risler, President of the hygiene section of the Musée Social, strongly advocates sun treatment. He writes on the subject in *La Revue*, and speaks of the treatment at Berck-sur-Mer and the marvellous cures that have taken place there, but points out that for those suffering from tuberculosis of the bone whose lungs are also attacked the rest at Berck is not possible, and in any case the northern climate does not permit of the utilisation of the rays of the sun, and it is just these rays which are so beneficial. The wonderful results obtained in Switzerland, thanks to heliotherapy at an altitude, are too little known in France, and it is time the eyes of the public were opened to the country's necessity.

One way of fighting tubercular bone trouble is to train up the children to a love of fresh air, and something has been done in this direction by open-air schools. Several of these are carried on in Switzerland at high altitudes. One is at Arê, where the founder, a woman of great intelligence, insists that when the temperature permits the classes shall be held in the sun, and that the children shall have their legs and arms and the upper part of the chest uncovered. At another place a doctor has installed two small agricultural colonies, one for boys and one for girls. They live in two simple Swiss chalets, very plain, but with wide open windows. The children, as far as their strength permits, do all the work of a small farm; these professional occupations are interrupted by classes given by a schoolmistress, gymnastics and recreation. Many

of these children were already ill and all were delicate, and there to-day the regularity of their lives has given them back the abundant physical activity of their age. Not one of the children came to the colony in good health, and were all suffering or threatened by tuberculosis in some form, and in a few weeks the sun cure has miraculously transformed them.

The action of the sun on the organisms is infinitely complex, and in the actual state of science it seems impossible to analyse it exactly. According to the Doctors Lesieur and Legrand, Koch's bacillus is killed in a fairly short time by sun and also by diffused light, and Doctor Rollier, an apostle of the sun cure, writes:—

Convinced that tuberculosis is not a local affection, and that it requires above all else general treatment, that the osseous forms in particular are always following on an original affection of the mesenteric glands, etc., I have seen in the sun cure together with that of altitude its rational treatment, because it places the organisms in an ideal position of defence, it stimulates the nutrition of all the tissues, it gives back to the skin its natural condition from which it had been so long separated, and makes of it more than an instrument of elimination and excitation, an organ of absorption charged with the task of drawing from the air and from the sun rays all the forms of energy of whose existence we were yesterday in ignorance. To sum up, heliotherapy constitutes the highest expression of orthopaedy, and of conservative surgery. It avoids irreparable mutilations, it safeguards to the utmost the integrity of articular functions, and restores to active life no longer deformed, warped individuals, but normal beings, ready for work and for the struggle for existence. It constitutes finally the most active of the prophylactical methods against the illnesses of youth, which too often open the door to tuberculosis.

The author pleads very strongly for the establishment of institutions for the sun cure in France. He points out that France is particularly favoured in respect of this treatment. It has 3000 kilometres of coast line with climates according to the diverse latitudes, it has the Pyrenees and the Alps, and also the Vosges. Possessing these coasts and mountains, which offer all advantages for the sun cure, he considers it inexcusable for people to seek abroad that with which France herself is so richly endowed.

# CATECHISM OF THE WAR—LXXIV

**Q.—Did the term "Allies" include all the nations that entered the war against the Central Powers?**

A.—Technically, the only "Allies" were France, Russia and Great Britain, who signed the Pact of London, September 5th, 1917, binding themselves not to make a separate peace.

**Q.—Did not other nations join as Allies?**

A.—Japan, although entering the war against Germany as a treaty-ally of Great Britain as soon as it began, signed a separate Peace Pact some time later. Italy signed the Pact when she entered the war. Since then most of the smaller nations that entered the war from time to time became signatories of the Peace Pact, and they have all been known as Allies. Belgium does not appear to have signed it, though.

**Q.—The United States is often referred to as an Ally. Is that correct?**

A.—It is incorrect. The United States wages war in conjunction with the Allies, but adheres to its own political principles and aims.

**Q.—What is meant by "tagging" a soldier?**

A.—All armies engaged in the war, with the possible exception of Russians, supply their men with identification tags, generally worn on a string passing round the neck. Modern warfare is so terrible that the ordinary means of identification often fail completely, and if it were not for these tags, families would be caused untold misery because of inability to learn the fate of their loved ones. The British soldier is provided with a circular aluminium tag containing his draft number, name, regiment, and religion. The French are using a metal tag made in duplicate and capable of being split. This allows one-half of the tag to be left with the dead body while the other half is forwarded to the proper authorities for checking purposes. The Germans make use of a similar tag. The American navy has a tag which is decidedly unique, in that it carries the thumbprint of the bearer.

**Q.—What is the cost of equipping an American infantryman?**

A.—The War Department states that the cost of equipping the average soldier is 156.71 dols. (£31). Of this amount, 101.62 dols. is expended for clothing, 7.73

dols. for eating utensils, and 47.36 dols. for fighting equipment.

**Q.—What are the food requirements for a large army?**

A.—For any army of 500,000 men, two and a-half million pounds of food must be allowed daily. In a month an army of this size will use thirteen million pounds of beef, fifteen million pounds of potatoes, one million pounds of coffee or tea, and three million pounds of sugar.

**Q.—Does the German race rank first in the world in education?**

A.—There are fewer illiterates in Germany than in any other country in Europe. The proportion of children receiving secondary education is larger than in any other country. In England 46 out of every 1000 of the population attend secondary schools; in Belgium 47, in Switzerland 72, and in Germany 110. The numbers attending technical schools are also proportionately larger than those attending similar institutions in other countries. The annual German production of books is 35,000, just three times as great as that of England. The whole world has flocked to Germany's seats of learning.

**Q.—Could you tell me something about the aerodrome at Loch Doon which after being made at great cost was recently abandoned?**

A.—This place is mentioned in the third report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure. It appears that the War Office in 1916 decided to establish at Loch Doon, in Ayrshire, a large school for training airmen in gunnery, the unique feature of the school being the use of moving targets running on rails. It was estimated to cost £150,000, and the work was begun in September, 1916; 3000 men, half of whom were German prisoners, were employed, and two and a-half miles of temporary railway were constructed. In order to drain the bog, 56 miles of pipes had to be laid down. Railways of standard gauge were made some miles in length up and down the hills to the east of the lake by the water side, along which were to run moving targets operated by electricity, which were to be fired at from the air. By May, 1917, the estimated cost had reached £350,000. Then it was found necessary to extend the temporary railway, which involved the con-

struction of a tunnel at a cost of £150,000. In December, 1917, when the Air Ministry was established, the whole matter was inquired into. It was found that flying would be possible on only half the days of the year on account of climatic conditions, that the movable targets were too slow, that there was no place for a forced landing, and that various other objections to the use of the place as an aerodrome existed. It was then decided that, as further large sums would be required to complete the scheme, it was better to cut the loss than to throw good money after bad. Altogether half a million pounds appears to have been wasted on the aerodrome.

**Q.—How many kinds of hand grenades are there?**

A.—So many that apparently only a few specialists in explosives can tell off-hand how many varieties are being used. They are all similar, however, in the main principle: that is, whatever their shape and size may be, they are high-explosive bombs to be tossed by hand-power into enemy positions. Some are thrown like a cricket ball. Others are hurled from slings. Still others are attached to sticks. The most simple are provided with a common fuse that is lit by the soldier just before he tosses the grenade. The more elaborate ones are fitted with very ingenious exploding devices, some being so-called time-fuses, others being contact devices. The great object is to insure explosion of the bomb the moment it gets to the "right place." Slow fuses often enable the enemy to snatch a bomb when it arrives, and throw it back at the men who sent it. On the other hand a fuse that discharges the grenade too swiftly may make it burst "at home."

**Q.—Are the Japanese still actively engaged in creating trade openings in India?**

A.—Yes. They recently established a regular monthly service between Japan, Java, Burma, India and New York. The vessels used are of the 5000-ton type, and the principal object of the new undertaking is to ship sugar between Java and Bombay, and between India and New York.

**Q.—Is it really true that there are some Australians stranded in India?**

A.—According to the Indian papers there were some 150 Australians stranded in Calcutta, who had to wait for some months before they could get passages back again to this country. They came over with shipments of horses for the Indian Government. There are said to be others in

Bombay, Madras and Colombo in the same position.

**Q.—After the downfall of the Tsar, did Russia retain domination in Persia?**

A.—Trotzky, the Russian Foreign Minister, under the Bolshevik Government, gave the Persian Minister in Petrograd a statement in January, 1918, declaring:

The Anglo-Russian agreement of 1907 was directed against the liberty and independence of the Persian people, and is null and void for all time. Moreover, the Government denounces all agreements preceding and following the said agreement which may restrict the rights of the Persian people to a free and independent existence.

**Q.—Can you give both sides of the "armed ship" controversy?**

A.—The Allied Governments claimed that a merchant ship "armed solely for defence" was not to be considered a warship. The Germans claimed that the line between "defence" and "offence" could not be drawn. Further, they claimed that the Allied ships, or, at least, British ships, had secret instructions to sink submarines, either by ramming or gun-fire, and that, therefore, they rendered it impossible for a submarine to "visit and search."

**Q.—Was there any truth in the German claim?**

A.—In 1915 and 1916 the German Government transmitted to the United States Government a long series of British Admiralty Orders and instructions found on British merchant ships captured by German vessels. The Germans declared that these instructions proved that British merchant ships had orders to "proceed aggressively against any submarine which comes in sight."

**Q.—Did the United States ever question the right of merchant ships to arm?**

A.—On January 18th, 1916, the State Department sent a confidential letter to the British, French, Russian and Italian Ambassadors, the Belgian Minister, and, later, to the Japanese Ambassador, in which the rights and duties of submarine war-vessels and of merchant ships were discussed, and the following statement was made:—

I should add that my Government (United States) is impressed with the reasonableness of the argument that a merchant ship, carrying an armament of any sort, in view of the character of submarine warfare, and the defensive weakness of undersea craft, should be held to be an auxiliary cruiser, and so treated by a neutral, as well as by a belligerent Government, and is seriously considering instructing its officials accordingly.



**Q.—What did the United States finally do?**

A.—Finding that the Allied Governments declined to acknowledge that armed merchant ships lost their peaceful status when "armed solely for defence," the United States dropped the contention.

**Q.—Is it a fact that wealthy Americans are able to buy exemption from military service?**

A.—No, they cannot do so. If their names are drawn in the ballot, they must serve. There was not much opposition to conscription amongst the working classes in America, although here and there strong objection was taken to that means of raising troops.

**Q.—What would be the military advantage to either side of going through Switzerland?**

A.—If it were not for the fact that Switzerland is prepared to defend her neutrality bloodily, a surprise attack through the north-western corner of Switzerland, where it abuts on the German and French lines, might be of advantage, for the assailant could hope to push so big an army through that his enemy's whole front would have to fall back. Thus German forces pouring through that corner might force an abandonment of the entire Vosges line and leave the French Verdun line critically "in the air." A French invasion of Germany through that part of Switzerland might force the Germans to abandon all of Alsace. Considered in practical detail, however, such an attack would present huge difficulties to either side. The troops and their vast lines of supplies would have only very narrow mountain valleys to pass through, and either side could probably block the narrow outlets.

**Q.—Lloyd George stated some time ago that the British Army in France was stronger than it had ever been before. Could you give me the numbers?**

A.—The strength of the British forces in France has never been published, but the Minister of War stated in March last that it had been found possible to decrease the number of troops in Great Britain, with the result that during 1917 the Expeditionary Forces were increased by no less than one-third of their total strength. This increase, he went on to say, has benefited our armies in France, in Egypt, and in Mesopotamia, while the forces in Macedonia and in East Africa have been slightly diminished. This statement, by the way, is somewhat difficult to reconcile with that of Mr. Lloyd George. The Prime Minister maintained that the

white troops in Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia had been reduced, not increased, during the latter part of 1917.

**Q.—Is there really a shortage of silver in India?**

A.—Yes, and it has been found necessary to ship large consignments of silver from America. In India it is minted into rupees. This is the first time that American silver has been used for this purpose.

**Q.—Is plague raging in India?**

A.—There is always plague in India, but it is no worse there than usual. During April last there were approximately 87,000 deaths reported. This total has often been exceeded. The largest number of deaths from plague ever recorded in one month was in April, 1907, when the total reached 373,000.

**Q.—Is it true that the P. & O. Company recently acquired the Falmouth docks?**

A.—These were acquired by the Federal Company, which is a member of the combination headed by the P. and O. Other members are the British India S.S. Co., the New Zealand S.S. Co., the Union S.S. Co., New Zealand, the Hain S.S. Co. and Glover Bros. Lord Inchcape is at the head of the huge combination.

**Q.—Did Captain Amundsen ever start on his projected Arctic expedition?**

A.—He announced in May that he proposed to start in June or July. The idea was to proceed east along the coast of Siberia as far as the Delong Islands; then to enter the ice pack with a view to drifting across the North Polar basin, and emerging between Greenland and Spitzbergen. The gallant captain hopes to complete his journey in four or five years, but is taking provisions for seven. He is going in a vessel called the *Maude*, after the Queen of Norway, which was specially constructed under his direction, with an egg-shaped hull to resist the pressure of the ice. Nansen's attempt to drift across the Polar basin in the *Fram* was not successful. Presumably Amundsen will take aeroplanes with him, as the great development in these craft should make it possible for him to use them successfully even in the icy regions of the North Pole.

**Q.—Does tea have to pay an export duty before it may be sent from India?**

A.—It has to pay an *ad valorem* export duty of 1.8 rupees per £100. When it

reaches Great Britain, it has to pay an import tax of 1/- a pound.

**Q.—What was Mr. W. M. Hughes' occupation before he entered Australian politics?**

**A.**—He was an umbrella mender, but he tried his hand at many things without much success before he found his true vocation in politics.

**Q.—How many Territorials were there in England at the outbreak of war?**

**A.**—That question is answered in *STEAD'S WAR FACTS*. So, too, are the others you ask about the Indian Army.

**Q.—What has happened to the French investors in Russian loans?**

**A.**—When the Bolshevik Government suspended payment of the interest on Russian bonds, the French Government assumed the burden, but only temporarily. It is understood that the payment made in April of this year was to be the last, but great pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to induce the Treasury to shoulder future payments of the interest. As this will involve the provision of an extra £40,000,000, or thereabouts, per annum, the problem is likely to prove difficult of solution. The position is a very serious one for many French people, for France is creditor to Russia for something like 20,000,000,000 francs, of which 14,000,000,000 francs is represented by various Russian bond issues, and at least 1,000,000,000 francs by Russian industrial scrip held in France. Since the beginning of the war France has advanced something like 5,000,000,000 francs to Russia in the way of war material, etc. As most of the Russian funds in France are in the hands of comparatively poor people, much hardship will occur if interest is not paid.

**Q.—Is it true that most of the factories in Switzerland are driven by water power?**

**A.**—They are not driven by water power direct, but by electricity, produced in dynamos driven by water turbines. Sixty per cent. of the workmen occupied in Swiss industry work in factories which use electric power exclusively.

**Q.—How much money has Italy spent on the war?**

**A.**—Up to January, 1918, the total expenditure was 33,090,000,000 lire, which at pre war exchange would be £1,323,600,000, but at the present rate of exchange £787,857,000. The monthly outlay for the war from January, 1917, to January, 1918, was 1,310,000,000 lire.

**Q.—Do women have the vote in Sweden?**

**A.**—Every Swede over twenty-four years of age has the right to vote for the Lower House. The method of election is proportional, and the voter may or may not indicate on the ballot paper the party to which the candidate he votes for belong. On the voting paper the names of the candidates must appear in vertical succession, and these names must not exceed the number to be elected by more than two.

**Q.—How far is Japan from the Asiatic mainland?**

**A.**—The northern and southern extremities of the Japanese group of islands swing in close to Asia. The rest of the group curves away in a huge crescent from the Asiatic mainland. Nippon, the biggest island, is 153 miles from Vladivostok, across the Sea of Japan.

**Q.—Did Russia take Siberia from China?**

**A.**—No. Russia did not, as a matter of fact, take Siberia from anybody. While English and Spanish sea-adventurers were fighting for the golden lands of the Spanish Main in Queen Elizabeth's time, a Cossack adventurer, named Vermak, led a little band of men across the Urals from Russia, and added Siberia to the Tsar's Empire, practically by discovery. There was fighting with the Tartar tribes, but it was very desultory, and in less than a century the Russian sway touched the Pacific Ocean. In 1700 the autocracy began to "utilise" the wonderful new territory as a convenient place for imprisonment.

**Q.—How long has Russia had Vladivostok?**

**A.**—More than half a century. Vladivostok was made into a great seaport and rail terminus as a logical part of Russia's expansion through Siberia. It is in real Siberian territory, not in Manchuria, though the Russian Siberian coast there stretches itself along the sea in such a way that Manchurian territory forms "hinter-land."

**Q.—Did Japan always own Korea?**

**A.**—Korea was an independent monarchy, but Japan gradually extended her influence there, and, in 1910, by treaty, Korea was annexed to the island empire. The Korean Government appealed to the Powers of Europe for aid, but nothing was done. There followed a good deal of rebellion, or, rather, of revolutionary agitation by young Koreans, many of whom had been educated in Europe and America. These movements were suppressed in the usual way.



## THE MUD LARKS.\*

The war is such a serious thing, of such tremendous significance to all of us that the last thing we expect it to bring forth is humour. Yet several little volumes have been published, which, though dealing intimately with the titanic struggle, are intensely and humanly humorous. Among the best of them are the short sketches of Lieutenant Garstin, of King Edward's Horse, published under the title of *The Mud Larks*. It is difficult to say which amongst the nineteen sketches is the best, for all are so good, but "Harmony Gents" is perhaps the most laughter-compelling. I find it impossible to quote from it without spoiling the tale, and therefore reprint it in full. It runs as follows:—

No one, with the exception of the Boche, has a higher admiration for the scrapping abilities of the Scot than I have, but in matters musical we do not hear ear to ear. It is not that I have no soul; I have. I fairly throb with it. I rise in the mornings trilling, trifles of Monckton and croon myself to sleep o' nights with snatches of Novello.

I would not yield to Paderewski himself on the comb, bones or Jew's harp, and I could give A. Gabriel a run for his money on the coach-horn. But these bagpipes!

It is not so much the execution of the bagpiper that I object to as his restricted repertoire. He can only play one noise. It is quite useless a Scot explaining to me that this is the "Lament of Sandy Macpherson" and that the "Dirge of Hamish MacNish"; it all sounds the same to me.

The brigade of infantry that is camped in front of my dug-out ("Mon Repos") is a Scots brigade. Not temporary Scots from the Highlands of Commissioner Street, Jo'burg, and Hasting Street, Vancouver (about whom I have nothing to say), but real *pukka*, law-abiding, kirk-

going, God-fearing, bayonet-pushing Gaels, bred among the crags of the Grampians and reared on thistles and illicit whuskey. And every second man in this brigade is a confirmed bagpiper.

They have massed pipes for breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner; pipes solos before, during, and after drinks. If one of them goes across the road to borrow a box of matches, a piper goes with him raising Cain. Their Officers' Mess is situated just behind "Mon Repos," so we live in the orchestra stalls, so to speak, and hear all there is to be heard.

One evening, while Sandy Macpherson's (or Hamish MacNish's) troubles were being very poignantly aired next door, Albert Edward came to the conclusion that the limit had been reached. "They've been killing the pig steadily for ten days and nights now," said he; "something's got to be done about it."

"I'm with you," said I; "but what are we two against a whole brigade? If they were to catch you pushing an impious pin into one of their sacred joy-bags there'd be another Second Lieutenant missing."

"Desist and let me think," said Albert Edward, and for the next hour he lay on his bed rolling and groaning—the usual signs that his so-called brain is active.

The following morning he rode over to the squadron, returning later with the Mess gramophone and a certain record. There are records and records, but for high velocity, armour-piercing and range this one bangs Banagher. It is a gem out of that "sparkling galaxy of melody, mirth and talent" (Press Agent speaking), "*I Don't Think*," which scintillates nightly at the Frivolity Theatre.

"When the Humming-birds are singing" is the title thereof, and Miss Birdie de Maie renders it—renders it as she alone can, in a voice like a file chafing corrugated iron.

We started the birds humming at 4

\*By Lieut. Crosbie Garstin. (Angus and Robertson, Sydney; 1/-.)

p.m., and let it rip steadily until 11.15 p.m., only stopping to change needles.

Albert Edward's batman unleashed the hub-bub again at six next morning; my batman relieved him at eight, and so on throughout the day in two-hour shifts. At night the line guards carried on. The following morning, as our batman threatened to report sick, we crimed a trooper for "dumb insolence," and made him expiate his sin by tending the gramophone. O'Dwyer, of one of the neighbouring ammunition columns, came over in the afternoon to complain that his mules couldn't get a wink of sleep, and were muttering among themselves; but we gave him a bottle of whiskey and he went away quietly.

Monk of the other column called an hour later to ask if we wanted to draw shell-fire; but we bought him off with a snaffle bit and a bottle of hair lotion.

The whole neighbourhood grew restive. Somebody under cover of the dark took a pot at the gramophone with a revolver and winged it in the trumpet. Even the placid observation balloon which floats above our camp grew nasty and dropped binoculars and sextants on us. We built a protective breastwork of sandbags about it and carried on. As for ourselves we didn't mind the racket in the least, having taken the precaution of corking our ears with gunners' wax.

Then one evening we discovered a Highland bomber worming up a drain on his stomach towards our instrument. Cornered, he excused himself on the plea that it was a form of Swedish exercise he always took at twilight for the benefit of his digestion. An ingenious explanation, but it hardly covered the live Mills bomb he was endeavouring to conceal in a fold of his kilt. We drove him away with a barrage of peg-mallets; but secretly we were very elated, for it was clear that the stram was telling on the hardy Scot.

As a precautionary measure we now surrounded the gramophone with a barbed-wire entanglement, and so we carried on.

Next day we saw a score of kiltie officers grouped outside their Mess, heads together, apparently in earnest consultation. Every now and again they would turn and glare darkly in our direction.

"The white chiefs hold heap big palaver over yonder," Albert Edward remarked. "They're tossing up now to

decide who shall come over and beard us. The braw bairn with the astrakan knees has lost; he's cocking his bonnet and asking his pals if he's got his sporran on straight. Behold, he approacheth, stepping delicately 'I leave it to you, partner.'"

I lay in the grass and waited for the deputation. The gramophone, safe behind its sandbags and wire, was doing business as usual. Miss Birdie yowling away like a wild cat on hot cinders. The deputation picked his way round the horse lines, nodded to me and sat down on the oil-drum we keep for the accommodation of guests. He nervously opened the ball by remarking that the weather was fine.

I did not agree with him, but refused to argue. That baffled him for some seconds, but he recovered by maintaining that it was anyway finer than it had been in 1915. After that outburst he seemed at a loss for a topic of conversation, and sat scratching his ear as if he expected to get inspiration out of it as a conjurer gets rabbits.

"Ye seem verra pairtial to music?" he ventured presently.

"Passionately," said I.

"Ah—hem! Ye seem verra pairtial to that one selection," he continued.

"Passionately devoted to it," said I. "Lovely little thing; I adore its sentiment, tempo, tremolo and timbre, its fortissimo and allegro. Just listen to the part that's coming now—

"When the humming birds are singing  
And the old church bells are ringing

We'll canoodle, we'll canoodle neath the moon.

Down in Alabama

You'll be my starry-eyed charmer;

On my white-haired kitten's grave we'll sit  
and spoon, spoon, spoon-oo-oon."

Nifty bit of allegro work that—eh, what?"

He nodded politely. "Ay—of course, sairtainly; but—er—er—don't ye find it grows a wee monotonous in time?"

"Never," I retorted stoutly. "Not in the least. No more than you find the Lament or Dirge of Sandy Macpherson or Hamish MacNish monotonous."

He cocked his ears suddenly and stared at me. Then his chubby face split slowly from ear to ear in the widest grin I ever saw, and up went both his hands.

"Kamerad!" said he.

This sample gives a good idea of the cleverness of the other sketches.



# The Winds of Chance

By REX BEACH.

Author of "The Barrier," "The Iron Trail," "The Ne'er-do-well," "The Silver Horde," etc.

## CHAPTER XXVII.—(Continued.)

To the left of the path rose a steep bank, and beyond that the bare, sloping mountain side. In the shelter of the bank the snow had drifted deep, but, oddly enough, its placid surface was churned up as if from an explosion or some desperate conflict that had here been lately waged. It had been tossed up and thrown down. What caused him to stare was the fact that no foot-prints were discernible—nothing except queer wavering parallel streaks that led downward from the snowy turmoil to the level ground below. They resembled the tracks of some oddly fashioned sled.

Pierce hailed, and with bent head was studying the phenomenon when close above him he heard the rush of a swiftly approaching body; he looked up just in time to behold an apparition utterly unexpected, utterly astounding. Swooping directly down upon him, with incredible velocity was what seemed at first glance to be a bird-woman, a Valkyr out of the pages of Norse mythology. Wingless she was, yet she came like the wind and at the very instant Pierce raised his eyes she took the air almost over his head—quite as if he had startled her into an upward flight. Upon her feet was a pair of long, Norwegian skis, and upon these she had scudded down the mountainside; where the bank dropped away she had leaped, and now, like a meteor, she soared into space. This amazing creature was clad in a blue and white toboggan suit, short skirt, sweater jacket and knitted cap. As she hung outlined against the wintry sky, Pierce caught a snap-shot glimpse of a fair, flushed, youthful face set in a ludicrous expression of open-mouthed dismay at sight of him. He heard, too, a high-pitched cry, half of warning, half of fright; the next instant there was a mighty upheaval of snow, an explosion of feathery white, as the human projectile landed, then a blur of blue and white

stripes as it went rolling down the declivity.

"Good Lord!" Pierce cried aghast, then he sped after the apparition. Only for the evidence of that undignified tumble he would have doubted the reality of this flying Venus, and considered her some creature of his imagination. There she lay, however, a thing of flesh and blood, bruised, broken, helpless; apprehensively he pictured himself staggering back to town with her in his arms.

He halted, speechless, when the girl sat up, shook the snow out of her hair, gingerly felt one elbow, then the other, and finally burst into a peal of ringing laughter. The face she lifted to his, now that it wore a normal expression, was wholly charming; it was, in fact, about the freshest, the cleanest, the healthiest and the frankest countenance he had ever looked into.

"Glory be!" he stammered. "I thought you were—completely spoiled."

"I'm badly twisted," the girl managed to gasp, "but I guess I'm all here. Oh! What a bump!"

"You scared me—I never dreamed—I didn't hear a thing until—well, I looked up and there you were. The sky was full of you. Gee! I thought I'd lost my mind. Are you quite sure you're all right?"

"Oh, I'll be black and blue again, but I'm used to that. That's the funniest one I've had, the very funniest. Why don't you laugh?"

"I'm too rattled, I suppose. I'm not accustomed to flying girls. Never had them rain down on me out of the heavens."

The girl's face grew sober. "You're entirely to blame," she cried angrily. "I was getting it beautifully until you showed up. You popped right out of the ground. What are you doing in the Queen's Park, anyhow? You've no business at the Royal sports."

"I didn't mean to trespass."

"I think I'll call the guards."

"Call the Court Physician and make sure."

"Pshaw! I'm not hurt." Ignoring his extended hand she scrambled to her feet and brushed herself again. Evidently the queenly anger was short-lived for she was beaming again, and, in a tone that was boyishly intimate, she explained:

"I'd made three dandy jumps, and was going higher each time, but the sight of you upset me. Think of being upset by a perfectly strange man. Shows lack of social training, doesn't it? It's a wonder I didn't break a ski."

Pierce glanced apprehensively at the bluff overhead. "Hadh't we better move out of the way?" he inquired. "If the Royal Family comes dropping in, we'll be ironed out like a couple of handkerchiefs. I don't want to feel the divine right of the King, or his left, either."

"There isn't any King—nor any Royal Family. I'm just the Queen of Pretend."

"You're ski-jumping, alone? Is that what you mean?" The girl nodded. "Isn't that a dangerous way to amuse yourself? I thought skis were—tricky."

"Have you ever ridden them?" the girl inquired quickly.

"Never."

"You don't know what fun is. Here —" The speaker stooped and detached her feet from the straps. "Just have a go at it." Pierce protested, but she insisted in a business-like way. "They're long ones—too long for me. They'll just suit you."

"Really, I don't care to—"

"Oh, yes, you do. You must."

"You'll be sorry," Pierce solemnly warned her. "When my feet glance off and leave me sticking up in the snow to starve, you'll— Say! I can think of a lot of things I want to do, but I don't seem to find ski-jumping on the list."

"You needn't jump right away." Determination was in the girl's tone. There was a dancing light of malice in her eyes. "You can practise a bit. Remember, you laughed at me."

"Nothing of the sort, I was amazed, not amused. I thought I'd flushed a very magnificent pheasant with blue and white stripes, and I was afraid it was going to fly away before I got a good

look at it. Now then—" He slowly finished buckling the runners to his feet and looked up interrogatively. "What are your Majesty's orders?"

"Walk around. Slide down the hill."

"What on?"

The girl smothered a laugh and waved him away. She looked on while he set off with more or less caution. When he managed to maintain an upright position despite the antics of his skis, her face expressed genuine disappointment.

"It's not so hard as I thought it would be," he soon announced triumphantly. "A little awkward at first, but —" He cast an eye up at the bank. "You never know what you can do until you try."

"You've been skiing before," she accused him reproachfully.

"Never."

"Then you pick it up wonderfully. Try a jump."

Her mocking invitation spurred him to make the effort, so he removed the skis and waded a short distance up the hill. When he had secured his feet in position for a second time, he called down:

"I'm going to let go and trust to Providence. Look out."

"The same to you," she cried. "You're wonderful, but—men can do anything, can't they?"

There was nothing graceful, nothing of the free abandon of the practised ski-runner in Pierce's attitude; he crouched ape-like with his muscles set to maintain an equilibrium, and this much he succeeded in doing—until he reached the jumping off place. At that point, however, gravity, which he had successfully defied, wreaked vengeance upon him; it suddenly reached forth and made him its vindictive toy. He pawed, he fought, he appeared to be climbing an invisible rope. With a mighty flop he landed flat upon his back, uttering a loud and dismaying grunt as his breath left him.

When he had dug himself out he found that the girl, too, was breathless. She was rocking in silent ecstacy, she hugged herself gleefully and there were tears in her eyes.

"I'm—so—sorry!" she exclaimed in a thin, small voice. "Did you—trip over something?"

The young man grinned. "Not at all. I was afraid of a sprained ankle so I

hit on my head. We meet on common ground, as it were."

Once again he climbed the grade, once again he skidded downward, once again he went sprawling. Nor were his subsequent attempts more successful. After a final ignominious failure he sat where he had fetched up and ruefully took stock of the damage he had done himself. Seriously he announced:—

"I was mistaken. Women are entitled to vote: they're entitled to anything. I've learned something else, too, Mr. Newton's interesting little theory is all wrong; falling bodies travel sixteen miles, not sixteen feet, the first second."

The girl demanded her skis, and, without rising, Pierce surrendered them; then he looked on admirably while she attached them to her feet, and went zig-zagging up the hill to a point much higher than the one from which he had dared to venture. She made a very pretty picture, he acknowledged, for she was vivid with youth and colour. She was lithe and strong and confident, too; she was vibrant with the healthy vigour of the out-of-doors.

She descended with a terrific rush, and this time she took the air with grace and certainty. She cleared a very respectable distance and ricocheted safely down the landing slope.

Pierce applauded her with enthusiasm. "Beautiful! My sincere congratulations, oh, Bounding Fawn!"

"That's the best I've done," she crowed. "You put me on my mettle. Now, you try it again."

Pierce did try again, he tried manfully but with a humiliating lack of success. He was puffing and blowing, his face was wet with perspiration, he had lost all count of time, when his companion finally announced it was time for her to be going.

"You're not very fit, are you?" said she.

Pierce coloured uncomfortably. "Not very," he confessed. He was relieved when she did not ask the reason for his lack of fitness. Just why he experienced such relief he hardly knew, but suddenly he felt no great pride in himself nor in the life that had brought him to such a state of flabbiness. Nor did he care to have this girl know who or what he was. Plainly she was one of those "nice people" at whom Laure and

the other denizens of the Rialto were wont to sneer with open contempt; probably that was why he had never chanced to meet her. He felt cheated because they had not met, for she was the sort of girl he had known at home, the sort who believed in things, and in whom he believed. Despite all his recently acquired wisdom, in this short hour, she had made him over into a boy again, and, somehow or other, the experience was agreeable. Never had he seen a girl so cool, so candid, so refreshingly unconscious and unaffected as this one. She was as limpid as a pool of glacier water; her placidity, he imagined, had never been stirred, and in that fact lay much of her fascination.

With her skis slung over her shoulder, she strode along beside him, talking freely on various topics, but with no disposition to chatter. Her mind was alert, inquisitive, and yet she had that thoughtful gravity of youth, wisdom coming to life. That Pierce had made a good impression upon her, she implied at parting by voicing a sincere hope that they would meet again very soon.

"Perhaps I'll see you at the next dance," she suggested.

"Dance!" The word struck Pierce unpleasantly.

"Saturday night, at the Barracks."

"I'd love to come," he declared.

"Do. They're loads of fun. All the nice people go."

With a nod and a smile, she was gone, leaving him to realise that he did not even know her name. Well, that was of no moment; Dawson was a small place, and—Saturday was not far off. He had heard about those official parties at the Barracks, and he made up his mind to secure an invitation sufficiently formal to permit him to attend the very next one.

His opportunity came that night when one of the younger Mounted Police officers paused to exchange greetings with him. Lieutenant Rock was a familiar figure on the streets of Dawson, and on the trails near by, a tall, upstanding Canadian, with a record for unflinching good humour and relentless efficiency. He nodded at Pierce's casual reference to the coming dance at headquarters.

"Great sport," said he. "It's about the only chance we fellows have to play."

When no invitation to share in the treat was forthcoming, Pierce told of meeting a most attractive girl that afternoon, and, having obtained his hearer's interest, he described the youthful goddess of the snows with more than necessary enthusiasm. He became aware of a peculiar expression upon Rock's face.

"Yes, I know her well," the latter said quietly. "D'you mean to say she invited you to the ball?"

"It wasn't exactly an invitation—"

"Oh! I see. Well," Rock shook his head positively, "there's nothing doing, old man. It isn't your kind of a party. Understand?"

"I don't understand," Pierce confessed in genuine surprise.

The officer eyed him with a cool, disconcerting directness. "We draw the line pretty close—have to, in a camp like this. No offence, I trust." With a smile and a careless wave of the hand he moved on, leaving Pierce to stare after him until he was swallowed up by the crowd in the gambling room.

A blow in the face would not have amazed Pierce Phillips more, nor would it have more greatly angered him. So, he was ostracised! These men who treated him with such apparent good-fellowship really despised him; in their eyes he was a renegade; they considered him unfit to know their women. It was incredible.

This was the first deliberate slight the young man had ever received. His face burned, his pride withered under it; he would have bitten out his tongue rather than subject himself to such a rebuff. Who was Rock? How dared he——? Rock knew the girl, oh, yes! But he refused to mention her name—as if that name would be sullied by his, Pierce's, use of it. That hurt most of all, that was the bitterest pill. Society! Caste! On the Arctic Circle! It was to laugh.

But Phillips could not laugh. He could more easily have cried, or cursed, or raved; even to pretend to laugh off such an affront was impossible. It required no more than this show of opposition to fan the embers of his flickering desire into full flame, and now that he was forbidden to meet that flying goddess, it seemed to him that he must do so at whatever cost. He'd go to that dance, he decided, in spite of Rock; he'd

go unbidden, he'd force his way in if need be.

This sudden ardour died, however, as quickly as it had been born, leaving him cold with apprehension. What would happen if he took the bit in his teeth? Rock knew about Laure—those detestable red-coats knew pretty much everything that went on beneath the surface of Dawson life—and if Pierce ran counter to the fellow's warning he would probably speak out. Rock was just that sort. His methods were direct and forceful. What then? Pierce cringed inwardly at the contemplation. That snow girl was so clean, so decent, so radically different from all that Laure stood for that he shrank from associating them together even in his thoughts.

Well, he was paying the fiddler, and the price was high. Even here on the fringe of the frontier society exacted penalty for the breach of its conventions. Pierce's rebellion at this discovery, his resentment at the whole situation prevented him from properly taking the lesson to heart. The issue was clouded, too, by a wholly natural effort at self-justification. The more he tried this latter, however, the angrier he became and the more humiliating seemed his situation.

He was in no mood to calmly withstand another shock, especially when that shock was administered by Joe McCaskey, of all persons, nevertheless it came close upon the heels of Rock's insult.

Pierce had not seen either brother since their departure for Hunker Creek, therefore Joe's black visage leering through the window of the cashier's cage was an unwelcome surprise.

"Hello, Phillips! How you making it?" the man inquired.

"All right."

Despite this gruffness, Joe's grin widened. There was nothing of pleasure at the meeting, nor of friendliness, behind it, however. On the contrary it masked both malice and triumph, as was plain when he asked:

"Did you hear about our strike?"

"What strike?"

"Why, it's all over town. Frank and I hit pay in our first shaft—three feet of twenty-cent dirt."

"Really?" Pierce could not restrain a movement of surprise.



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What was the value of the cargo of the "Deutschland"?  
What is the difference between an airship and an aeroplane?  
What is a Diesel engine?  
What is International law?  
When was the Paris Conference held?  
What is the Rhine Navigation Treaty?  
How many races are taking part in the present war?  
What are the religions of the Entente Powers?  
What country has the largest birth rate?  
What is the population of Russia?  
How many men are there in a division?  
What were the naval strengths of the Great Powers in 1914?  
What ships were lost in the Jutland battle?  
How many miles is it from Berlin to Baghdad?  
How many cables are there across the Atlantic?  
What possessions had Germany in the Pacific?  
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What is the so-called French Foreign Legion?  
Are there many Jews in Palestine?  
How old is Lloyd George?  
Is Lord Northcliffe an Irishman?  
What is a glacié?  
How much gold is there in a sovereign?  
What does "Dora" mean?  
What is tollite?  
Etc., etc.

Joe nodded and chuckled, meanwhile keeping his malignant gaze focused upon the younger man's face. "It's big. We came to town to buy grub and a dog team and to hire a crew of hands. We've got credit at the A.C. Company up to fifty thousand dollars."

There was a brief pause, which Pierce broke by inquiring as casually as he could:—

"Did Tom and Jerry have any luck?"

"Sure thing! They've hit it, the same as us. You tossed off a home-stake, kid. Don't believe it, eh? Well, here's the proof—coarse gold from Hunker." With an ostentatious flourish the speaker flung down a half-filled "poke" together with a bar check. "Cash me in, and don't let any of it stick to your fingers."

Pierce was impelled to hurl the gold sack at Joe's head, but he restrained himself. His hands were shaky, however, and when he untied the thongs he was mortified at spilling some of the precious yellow particles. Mortification changed to anger when the owner cried sharply:

"Hey! Got cashier's ague, have you? Just cut out the sleight-of-hand!"

Pierce smothered a retort; silently he brushed the dust back into the blower, and set the weights upon his scales. But McCaskey ran on with an insulting attempt at banter.

"I'm onto you short-weighters. Take your bit out of the drunks; I'm sober."

When Pierce had retied the sack, and returned it, he looked up and into Joe's face. His own was white, his eyes were blazing.

"Don't pull any more comedy here," he said quietly. "That short-weight joke doesn't go at the Rialto."

"Oh, it don't? *Joke!*" McCaskey snorted. "I s'pose it's a joke to spill dust—when you can't get away with it. Well, I've spotted a lot of crooked cashiers in this town."

"No doubt. It takes a thief to catch a thief."

McCaskey started. His sneer vanished. "Thief! Sal—I!" he blustered angrily. "D'you mean—?" The clash, brief as it had been, had excited attention. Noting the fact that an audience was gathering, the speaker lowered his voice, and thrusting his black, scowling countenance closer to the cage opening, he said: "You needn't

remind me of anything. I've got a good memory. Damn' good!" After a moment he turned his back and moved away.

When Pierce went off shift he looked up Lars Anderson, and received confirmation of the Hunker strike. Lars was in a boisterous mood, and eager to share his triumph.

"I knew that was a rich piece of ground," he chuckled, "and I knew I was handing those boys a good thing. But a fellow owes something to his friends, doesn't he?"

"I thought you said it was low grade?"

"Low grade!" Big Lars threw back his head and laughed loudly. "I never said nothing of the kind. Me knock my own ground? Why, I'd have banked my life on Hunker."

Here was luck, Pierce told himself. A fortune had been handed him, on a silver patter, and he had shoved it aside. He was sick with regret; he was furious with himself for his lack of wisdom; he hated Laure for the deception she had practised upon him. The waste he had made of this opportunity bred in him a feeling of desperation.

Towards the close of the show, Laure found him braced against the bar; the face he turned upon her was cold, repellant. When she urged him to take her to supper, he shook his head.

"What's the matter?" she inquired.

"Big Lars never told you Hunker was low grade," he declared.

The girl flushed, she tossed her dark head defiantly. "Well, what of it?"

"Simply this: Tom and Jerry and the McCaskey's have struck rich pay."

"Indeed."

"You lied to me."

Laure's lips parted slowly in a smile. "What did you expect? What would any girl do?" She laid a caressing hand upon his arm. "I don't care how much they make or how poor you are——"

Pierce disengaged her grasp. "I care!" he cried roughly. "I've lost my big chance. They've made their piles and I'm—well, look at me."

"You blame me?"

He stared at her for a moment. "What's the difference whether I blame you or myself. I'm through. I've been through for some time but—this is curtain."

"Pierce!"

Impatiently he flung her off, and strode out of the theatre.

Laure was staring blindly after him when Joe McCaskey spoke to her. "Have a dance?" he inquired.

She undertook to answer, but her lips refused to frame any words; silently she shook her head.

"What's the idea? A lover's quarrel?" McCaskey eyed her curiously, then he chuckled mirthlessly. "You can come clean with me. I don't like him any better than you do."

"Mind your own business!" stormed the girl in a sudden fury.

"That's what I'm doing, and minding it good. I've got a lot of business—with that rat." Joe's sinister black eyes held Laure's in spite of her effort to avoid them; it was plain that he wished to say more, but hesitated. "Maybe it would pay us to get acquainted," he finally suggested. "Frank and me and the Count are having a bottle of wine upstairs. Better join us."

"I will," said Laure, after a moment. Together they mounted the stairs to the gallery above.

(To be continued in our next number—  
September 7, 1918.)

## ESPERANTO NOTES.

"Skill in foreign languages is one of the machine-guns of modern commercial enterprise," said Professor Sadler, vice-chancellor of the University of Leeds, recently. "We shall have to meet Central European competition in neutral markets. All the more reason for us to know what Germany is doing"; he might have added that Germany is among other things spreading the study of Esperanto. "The war has revealed the importance of the study of foreign languages. Modern business, which is one of the foundations of modern politics, feels the same need. Modern science, which is a governing fact in modern politics and in modern business alike, reinforces the claim. But, above all, human interests dictate it to us also, and in the long run human interests are sovereign alike in the business and the politics of the world. A knowledge of a foreign language gives us the power of seeing things from a new standpoint."

The appearance of a new Esperanto magazine, *La Teknika Revuo* (The Technical Review) is announced from Switzerland. It will be devoted to scientific matters treated in a not too frigidly scientific manner. The editor is M. Rene de Saussure, a scientist of international reputation and an eminent Esperantist. M. de Saussure has made a close examination of Esperanto from a scientific point of view, and, besides being a warm champion of the language, has published several studies of it which have had the effect of making this simple language still simpler.

A well-known Sheffield firm, John Adams, manufacturers of polishes, recently wrote as follows:—"We have a world-wide connection, and during the past fifteen years have frequently had the opportunity of using Esperanto in correspondence with foreign clients; and we have always found it to be quite equal to any national language in every respect; in fact, after English, we much prefer to use Esperanto rather than any national language, as through this medium the possibility of misunderstandings is entirely eliminated."

Public library authorities are beginning to realise that Esperanto literature is worthy of a place on their shelves. The management of the Sydney Municipal Library, in the Queen Victoria Market building, has recently added several Esperanto books to its stock, selecting them from a list obtained from the Sydney Esperanto Society. The Public Library of Melbourne has also, both in the reference and the lending sections, a small selection of Esperanto literature.

Readers of STEAD'S REVIEW interested in Esperanto should communicate with the nearest Esperanto group, at any of these addresses: Box 731, Elizabeth Street P.O., Melbourne; 223 Stanmore Road, Stanmore, Sydney; Mr. W. L. Waterman, Torrens Road, Kilkenny, Adelaide; Mr. C. Kidd, O'Mara Street, Latwyche, Brisbane; Mr. T. Burt, Stott's College, Perth; Mr. D. Guilbert, 7 Glen Street, Hobart; and Mr. W. L. Edman-son, 156 Lambton Quay, Wellington, N.Z.



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## FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS QUARTER.

The well-known firm of Peak, Frean, and Co., biscuit manufacturers in Britain, paid the usual dividend of 25 per cent. for 1917.

Up to a recent date 12,500 members of the Mercantile Marine had been killed since the beginning of the war, and the amount paid to their dependants amounts to about £170,000 per year.

The number of persistent bad time-keepers employed by Admiralty firms who had been warned were:—February, 975; March, 1022; April, 1353. Most of the men were ship-yard workers and marine engineers.

The Commercial Economy Board of the United States National Council of Defence has warned merchant tailors that clothing of so-called "fancy" pattern is not to be made up. Fashion has to go by the board.

The deepest well in the world, already 7363 ft. deep, is now being drilled on the Goff farm, eight miles north-east of Clarksburg, West Virginia. Until January this year the record had been held by a boring at Czuchow, Silesia, 7349 ft. deep.

The final census returns of cotton ginned or to be ginned of the growth of 1917 show that 11,231,263 round bales were counted, as against 11,363,000 bales from the 1916 growth, 11,068,000 bales from the crop of 1915, and 15,905,000 bales from the crop of 1914.

The total weight of meat, poultry and provisions upon which toll was paid in the London markets in 1917 was 282,936 tons, as compared with 331,161 tons in 1916, a decrease of 48,225 tons, or 14.6 per cent. The weight of fish delivered in the same period was 1356 tons, an increase of 121 tons, or 9.7 per cent.

British productions in 1917 compared with the previous year showed increases in mutton of 12,901 tons, rabbits 361 tons, sundries 44 tons and decreases in beef 4693 tons, pork 7999 tons, poultry

and game 871 tons, butter, cheese, etc., 657 tons, and eggs 70 tons, or a decrease of 984 tons in all home productions.

Imported productions compared with 1916 showed decreases in beef 937 tons, mutton 37,335 tons, pork 4373 tons, poultry and game 267 tons, rabbits 3697 tons, butter, cheese, etc., 383 tons, eggs 247 tons, and sundries 2 tons, making a total decrease in overseas supplies of 47,241 tons. Overseas supplies, which in the pre-war year 1913 aggregated 332,963 tons, had in 1917 dropped to 134,030 tons, a decrease of 198,333 tons. In the same period British supplies rose from 99,148 tons in 1913 to 148,906 tons in 1917, or an increase of 49,758 tons, thus leaving a deficiency of 149,175 tons.

There are believed to be at least 75,000,000 roubles of Russian paper money held in New York, and the amount may be even higher. This Russian paper is now worth about £1,650,000 at the latest market value of the rouble notes, or 11 cents per rouble. The paper money is held privately by individuals, for the most part, as a speculation, in the hope that before very long it will rise in value to a point somewhere nearer the 51.45 cents per rouble official parity.

The paper money alluded to in the foregoing paragraph is said to have come in large part from Japan and the Far East, transmitted by registered mail. Some of it was bought when the rouble notes were selling for about 7 cents, and already shows a "paper" profit.

The contents of the lengthy Petroleum Agreement concluded between the Central Powers and Roumania, as telegraphed from Berlin, confirm the information on the subject already published. The Central Powers' controlling company, the Oil Lands Leasing Company, is endowed with exclusive rights of the most far-reaching character for thirty years, with the right of prolongation for two subsequent periods of thirty years, making ninety years in all. Up to one quarter of the foundation shares will be offered to the Roumanian Government.

with the right of transfer to private interests, but Germany and Austria-Hungary ensure their control by the creation of Preference shares, with a fifty-fold voting right, and these shares are exclusively at their disposal.

A State trading monopoly in oil in Roumania is also provided for, the exercise of the monopoly to be entrusted to a company that is to be formed by a financial group designated by the German and Austro-Hungarian Government. All kinds of privileges are stipulated for the Oil Lands Leasing Company, the position of which is most carefully hedged around. The German and Austro-Hungarian Governments, on the one hand, and the Roumanian Government on the other, are agreed by the terms of Article 4 of the Agreement that immediately after the ratification of Peace Treaty, the Roumanian Government will enter into negotiations with the Governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary regarding the manner in which Roumania's surplus oil and oil products can be placed at the disposal of Germany and Austria-Hungary without endangering the vital interests of Roumania in respect of the country's industries and its own needs.

Figures, dealing with the foreign trade of Japan for the first two months of the current year constituted a record. The exports for the period mentioned rose from £19,242,000 to £23,756,000, an advance of £1,500,000, while the gain in imports was still greater, amounting to £9,016,000, and swelling the total to £24,215,000. The chief advances in exports were in articles of food and drink, raw material, including coal and wood and manufactures. The increase in the last-named amounted to nearly £3,500,000, and about a third of it was in cotton textiles, but nearly all classes of Japanese manufactures recorded a more or less substantial gain. On the import side raw materials accounted for nearly half the increase, raw cotton alone being responsible for close upon £3,000,000.

In 1916 the number of pigs in England showed a decrease of over a quarter of a million, or 10 per cent., compared with the previous year. The decline was even more marked in 1917, when the

number of pigs fell by another quarter of a million, or 11 per cent. In the same two years sows kept for breeding declined by 44,000. Despite a small increase in 1916, the number of pigs in Ireland declined by no less than 343,000 in 1917. Last year's figure, 947,000, was a decrease of nearly 500,000, or 33 per cent., on the figure for 1911, which was one of the record years. The pig population for the whole of the United Kingdom in 1917 amounted to 3,000,000 compared with 3,600,000 the previous year, a decline of 19 per cent. The general result (according to the Statist) has been a serious contraction in the bacon-curing industry at home, and a great increase in the quantity and value of imported pig products. In this connection it is interesting to note that in 1916 the quantity of hams imported into the United Kingdom was 1,555,000 cwt., of a value of £6,800,000, compared with 855,000 cwt., valued at £3,068,000 in 1913. Bacon imports rose from 4,858,000 cwt. to 7,436,000 cwt.

Many estimates are made from time to time as to the value of the total assets of Great Britain, and it is seldom one finds unanimity in the ideas of those in the position to judge. Mr. F. Larkworthy, a leading British banker, recently alluded to this very important and interesting subject. He is of the opinion that the calculations of income and national wealth were very far from being correct in pre-war days. He could not agree with the arbitrary valuation made by some economists that the national assets are six or seven times the national income, and because the national income is estimated to be 2300 millions, therefore the total assets are 15,000 millions. In view of the new facts which this war has disclosed, it seems certainly desirable that economists should carefully reconsider the data upon which their calculations are based. "Last year," added Mr. Larkworthy, "my own conjecture amounted to 40,000 millions, but all such comparisons are misleading, because we have no means of arriving at what the country's liquid wealth assets amount to." In the same speech he declared that so far as it was able to estimate, the total wealth on the side of the Allies was 120,000 millions sterling, comparing with 26,000 millions sterling at the disposal of the Central Powers.



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